# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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Friday
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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### 'Probability' of Global War Cited at AMU Meeting

*LD2301041891 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Jan 91*

[Excerpts] [Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi], the brother secretary of the People's External Liason and International Cooperation Bureau, delivered a speech at the beginning of which he welcomed the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers participating in the proceedings of this session. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary of the People's External Liason and International Cooperation Bureau went on to say that our meeting comes when a destructive war has broken out in the Arab Gulf region, a war which targets the Arab nation, its existence, entity and destiny, and the imposition on it of a fait accompli. He explained that appreciating these considerations, the great Jamahiriyah has tried right from the start to contain the crisis when the brother leader of the revolution put forward an initiative that we believed, and still do, is the way to secure an honorable solution to the crisis.

Moreover, the brother leader of the revolution, believing in the necessity of undertaking joint and quick Arab action to stop the war, proposed to the Arab kings and presidents to speak to the UN Security Council collectively, or within the limits of those who accept this idea, to urge it to adopt a resolution stopping the war and opening the way for a political solution once again. The Arabs would assume their national responsibilities in imposing this solution, considering that the problem of Kuwait is essentially an Arab problem and that national responsibility makes it incumbent upon us, now more than ever, not to assume the position of a spectator regarding what is happening and to work with an authentic Arab spirit toward preventing the destruction of Kuwait and Iraq. It is incumbent on us not to allow the widening of the circle of war which, in fact, aims at the demolition of the Arabs' economic and military capabilities and capacities.

It is also incumbent on us to bear in mind that should the international community fail to give peace a chance, the probability of the Gulf war's changing into a global one is always there, which constitutes a real danger to the whole world. [passage omitted]

The development of the Arab Maghreb requires more devotion to work so that the construction of this union is solid, strong, and capable of positive participation on the international level, in its Islamic and (?African) environments. This matter requires the development of relations with similar regional blocs, a process which the Council of Foreign Ministers started during its meetings in Rome on 10 October 1990 with their West African counterparts and with their EEC counterparts in Brussels on 13 November 1990. The council will also continue its consultations with foreign ministers of the West African Economic Community on whether agreement about a draft framework accord for cooperation, presented by the community, is to be concluded, in addition to the economic and historical ties linking the AMU and the neighboring African countries. [passage omitted]

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat Requests Nonaligned Meeting on Gulf

*NC2401080691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Tunis, 24 Jan (INA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called for an urgent meeting of the bureau of the Nonaligned Movement's Presidency to discuss the scope of the U.S.-Atlantic- Zionist aggression against Iraq.

The PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, has reported that President 'Arafat asked Yugoslav special envoy Dragoslav Pejic during his meeting with him in Tunis last night to convey this request by the PLO to the president of Yugoslavia, which currently heads the Nonaligned Movement.

WAFA added that the PLO explained that such a meeting is necessary in view of the U.S. scheme aimed at destroying the economic infrastructure of fraternal Iraq, in flagrant violation of the Security Council resolutions.

The meeting between 'Arafat and the Yugoslav envoy dealt with the serious results of the U.S-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq and the risks of its expansion.

WAFA noted that there had been full agreement during the meeting on the need for the nonaligned countries to formulate a political initiative to stop the war operations and find a peaceful solution to all problems in the region.

### Urges Pope To Intercede

*LD2401230291 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat addressed an appeal to Pope John Paul II in which he urged the Pope to launch a personal initiative to put an end to the war and all military operations in the Middle East, and to create the opportunity for finding peaceful solutions for all the crises of the region, including Palestine and Lebanon.

WAFA reported that Yasir 'Arafat stressed in his appeal that all the problems of the region are linked to the Palestinian issue. All these issues can be solved only by using the same standard and on the same basis.

'Arafat also emphasized the gravity of the results of this war for the whole human race.

## Habash Says Entire Arab World Supports Saddam

*PM2501103691 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 23 Jan 91 p 8*

[Interview with George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Fabio Scuto in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpt] Damascus—[introductory passage omitted] [Scuto] Why did the PLO choose to side with Saddam?

[Habash] We made this decision not on 2 August, when Saddam invaded Kuwait, but on 6 August, when the American forces entered the Persian Gulf. During those four days there were many Arab calls for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops. There was also an attempt to convene an Arab summit in Jeddah, but the meeting was canceled. Then there was the American intervention, and things in the Gulf changed. The U.S aim is clear: It wants to control the oil reserves and market prices. This is the real reason for the war, but the Arab people will not allow themselves to be manipulated by Washington. This is why we support Saddam and are siding with the Iraqi people.

[Scuto] But are you with the Iraqi people or with Saddam?

[Habash] For us there is no difference between the Iraqi people and Saddam. At present the entire Arab world is with Saddam—from Algeria to Tunis and from Amman to Khartoum. This war is not only Saddam Husayn's war but also that of the entire Arab people.

[Scuto] But for you PLO people, what link is there between the occupation of Kuwait and Palestine?

[Habash] The link is America. After 2 August America decided to apply international law, so we told the Americans: Very well, if you want to apply international law, we agree, but we must apply it to the entire region. There are the UN resolutions on Palestine; let us sit at a table and discuss all the region's problems: Let Saddam withdraw from Kuwait, and let Israel withdraw from the Arab territories that it has occupied for 24 years. The law must be the same for everyone. This is the link between the two.

[Scuto] But you too were taken by surprise by the invasion of Kuwait. Saddam certainly did not consult you before invading the emirate.

[Habash] We of the People's Front do not want to discuss Saddam as an individual, but I well remember 12 August, when he urged everyone to find a comprehensive solution for the Middle East. For me, as a politician, this is enough.

[Scuto] What will happen to the Palestinian cause if Saddam loses the war?

[Habash] We will continue our struggle; even if we lose some battles, we will win in the end. Even in 1981, when the Israelis invaded Lebanon to exterminate us, Begin said that this was the solution to the problems and that there would not be another Arab-Israeli war for the next 40 years. But instead, what are we experiencing now? There will be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestinian people gain recognition of their right to a state; and terrorism—as you Westerners call it—will also continue.

[Scuto] After 1976 the period of aircraft hijackings began, as you should remember well. Should we expect something similar?

[Habash] We will continue our struggle against imperialism in its international dimension. But our main attention will be directed toward Israel. The intifadah will be stepped up. This is our main task.

[Scuto] There are disputes within the PLO, however. Some are calling for a holy war, while others talk about moderation...

[Habash] The PLO position is clear, and we are united alongside Iraq. Of course, there are different languages, but ultimately we are all united against the United States and Israel.

[Scuto] I was referring to the possibility of attacks on Western targets.

[Habash] I certainly cannot say that we are all united on this issue. Of course, all the Palestinian groups are in a state of ferment, from Lebanon to Syria and Jordan. We will hit the Israeli enemy: This is certain.

[Scuto] But Western embassies, such as Italy's in West Beirut, have already been hit. How do you intend to stop such attacks, which are unproductive for the Palestinian cause?

[Habash] This is very complex and difficult to do. We hope that the decisions of the Western governments will also help us to stop such attacks.

[Scuto] What are you referring to?

[Habash] In the past we greatly appreciated the Italian and EEC positions on the Palestinian question. Naturally we are shocked to see these governments now blindly supporting the United States in this crisis. I regret to say that the Italian Government at present has managed to say consistently and exclusively "yes" to the American solution to the crisis—namely, war.

[Scuto] Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the Palestinian cause?

[Habash] I am optimistic, even if we have to struggle for another 100 or 1,000 years: Ours is a just cause. And I am a revolutionary. Particularly at this time, as Iraqi missiles are hitting Israel, how can I be pessimistic?

[Scuto] But Israel is not involved in this war.

[Habash] Actually Israel is involved in this war, albeit in an invisible role. By fighting Israel, we will help Saddam to win.

## Algeria

### Bendjedid Receives Mauritanian Foreign Minister

*AB2401202091 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 23 Jan 91*

[Text] Hasni Ould Didi, the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, was received yesterday by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. After the meeting, the minister told the press that he delivered to the Algerian head of state a message from Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Tava, Military Committee for National Salvation chairman and head of state. The message is in line with the regular consultations between the two countries especially this particular time when the Arab nation is faced with a particularly difficult situation.

The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation also explained that the message dealt with consultations among Arabs on the current situation as well as with initiatives to be taken to enable the Arab and Muslim community to effectively play its role in the international arena.

### Ghazali Receives Indian Envoy, Discusses Gulf

*LD2401233891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, minister of foreign affairs, received today at the ministry [name indistinct], special envoy of the Indian prime minister, who handed him a message for Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, from the Indian prime minister.

A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out that the talks included discussion of the grave developments witnessed in the Middle East region following the intervention by the Western alliance, and also the efforts exerted by Algeria, with the support of the Arab Maghreb countries and with the coordination of the nonaligned countries, for ending the war and resuming diplomatic efforts.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry's statement added that Algeria and India agreed to consolidate their coordination in order to encourage the UN Security Council—of which India is a member—to shoulder its responsibilities in agreeing to an immediate cease-fire and opening the way for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

In consolidation of Algerian efforts toward ending the incompatible war in the Middle East a number of countries—especially Zambia, Cameroon, Mauritius, Burkina Faso, and the OAU—expressed their support for these efforts.

A statement by the Algerian Foreign Ministry pointed out that support by African countries could be added to the Arab Maghreb countries's support, which decided at the meeting of their foreign ministers this week in Tripoli to call for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council.

### Rallies Held in Solidarity With Iraqis

*LD2401195191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Excerpts] Rallies and demonstrations in solidarity with the Iraqi people continue in the homeland. National Liberation Front [FLN] militants today organized a march in support of the Iraqi people and held a rally in front of the UN headquarters in Algiers. [passage omitted] A similar march was organized by many parties, including the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development [MAJD], the Socialist Avant-Garde Party [PAGS], the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], and the Union of Democratic Forces [UFD].

Colleague Ammar Bouderba attended this march and reports:

[Bouderba] Within the framework of the popular marches and demonstrations held in support of Iraq, a popular demonstration was held this evening, under the organization and supervision of a number of parties including the PAGS, the RCD, the MAJD, the Alliance of Independent Democrats, the Organization of [word indistinct], and the Liberal Party, as well as three other political organizations. All the slogans voiced at this popular march call for the departure of foreign forces from the Gulf and support for the steadfastness of the Iraqi people against Western aggression. These banners also read: "No to war, yes to peace, no to surrender," and "Solidarity with the Iraqi people."

The march set off from Martyrs' Square and proceeded via Hassiba Ben Bouali Boulevard, Pasteur Boulevard, and the university tunnel and arrived at the government palace at 1600. [passage omitted]

### Marches Held 'In Support of the Iraqi People'

*LD2401204191 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Marches and rallies in support of the Iraqi people and peace in the Middle East have once again marked the weekend. Djahida Mihoubi:

[Mihoubi] Yes, two big demonstrations took place this afternoon, almost at the same time, 1430. One was organized by the associations of women and Mudjahidat [women veterans of the liberation war] who met at Audin Square. Then they went to the UN office near the Debussy cinema, hundreds of women of various social origins, and many housewives accompanied by their children. The slogans that were often repeated were: "Bush assassin," "UN peace,". "America go home, freedom for Palestine." On arriving at the UN office they apparently did not ask to be received. They stayed there for about 15 minutes. An important event to be mentioned: At one point, a very big missile made of

strong paper and covered with foil was taken to the entrance and the women all in one movement tried to get this missile inside the UN office, but the missile was pushed back by the few staff members who were inside and by the police who were there to keep peace and order. The women then dispersed calmly.

The other demonstration was organized by the Rally of Artists, Intellectuals, and Scientists; the National Alliance of Independent Democrats; and several other political parties. The meeting point was Martyrs Square and the destination was the government palace. It was a big crowd—several hundred men, women, and children. Many slogans were for peace and hostile to the intervention of the coalition's force against Iraq. These slogans were written in Arabic, French, and Berber. The march was characterized by its good organization. In its statement [word indistinct] stressed that the Iraqi people need the support of the Algerian people and this support should be given within a political and humanitarian context. The last march of the day in Algiers was that of the National Liberation Front, which gathered a few hundred party activists.

Algiers University this morning was also mobilized to support the Iraqi people. A general meeting was held following the appeal of the Committee of Support for the Iraqi People. Among the proposals approved were the organization of lectures and debates to be held on the Gulf war by experts, and an appeal to all intellectuals to make suggestions on actions in support of the Iraqi people. In Constantine, the doctors demonstrated their support for the Iraqi people. A march took place at the initiative of Professor Yahia Guidoum. These doctors adopted a petition in which they declared themselves volunteers to go to Iraq to help wounded Iraqis. In this petition they demand equipment, but stress that their action has no partisan character, but rather humanitarian. Other marches have also taken place in other provinces of the country particularly in Jijel and Bouira.

### People's Assembly Calls on UN To Stop Gulf War

*LD2401165891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] A short time ago the People's Assembly, which met yesterday in an extraordinary session, issued a communique. It says:

In view of the grave developments which the Arab Gulf region is living with as a result of the vicious attack which characterized the intervention of the multinational force against the brotherly Iraqi people; in view of the illegitimacy of UN Security Council Resolution 678, which relies on using force against Iraq to oust it from Kuwait, a resolution that contravenes Article 27 of the UN Charter—which clearly stipulates in paragraph three that the consent of the UN Security Council five permanent members must be obtained before the resolution can be implemented, something which was not obtained after China abstained; in view of the fact that the matter was about the formation of a UN force in charge of implementing this resolution under the UN flag, except that what actually happened was the formation of a multinational force put under the command of one country; in view of the fact that the forces stationed in the Gulf have gone beyond the limits of the task which they set for themselves in the UN resolution, despite its illegitimacy, flagrant aggression against the brotherly Iraqi people, and destruction of its economic and military capabilities; in view of all this, the People's Assembly, which held an extraordinary session on 23 January, notes the flagrant violation of international law, condemns the aggression directed from Arab territory against Iraq, places the region, in fact the United Nations responsible and calls on it to intervene to put a prompt halt to the comprehensive annihilation to which our brothers in Iraq are being subjected, and to seek peaceful solutions to all issues posed in the region.

The grave turning-point, adds the communique of the People's Assembly, to which events in the Gulf region have come, threatens not only the destiny of the Arab and Islamic peoples but that of peoples in the whole world. The framework of the U.S. plan aims at imposing a new political map which only serves the interests of the mighty

Under these grave circumstances the People's Assembly addresses an urgent appeal to the international community to reject this new vision, which is designed to be imposed on us by force and without consulting us. We will act with all determination to halt this diabolical plan which aims for total destruction.

The People's Assembly also calls on Arab and Islamic nations in particular to assume their historic responsibilities vis-a-vis what is happening in the region and to overcome their differences in the face of the befalling danger which looms over them, to mobilize all their capacities and invest them in the crucial common cause of Palestine.

The People's Assembly condemns the inimical attitude taken by the Turkish authorities toward the brotherly Iraqi people. It warns against any infringement on Iraq's territorial unity. The People's Assembly praises the brave and spontaneous attitude of solidarity adopted by the Algerian people. This is derived from their links and history with the brotherly Iraqi people in their ordeal, and Algeria's efforts to stop the war and find a peaceful solution which will guarantee the August rights of the Arab nation.

The People's Assembly appeals to all Algerians for a more comprehensive mobilization in all fields to confront the demands of this grave situation and secure the most support for the Iraqi people. The People's Assembly renews its total solidarity with the Iraqi people and reaffirms its unconditional support for these heroic people who are confronting the most vicious attack that human history has ever known.

## Egypt

### Mubarak Addresses Parliament 24 Jan

*NC2401125391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0803 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Speech by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to a joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council at the People's Assembly Hall in Cairo—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother and sister members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council: All of us under this dome of the people's hall and under the sky of Egypt from one end to the other realize that we are living today, and have been for more than six months, amid the gravest events in the history of the Arab land.

I have decided to call you to this historic meeting in accordance with Article 132 of the Constitution and out of respect for the trust of national responsibility in our democratic structure which makes it incumbent on the one shouldering the prime responsibility in accordance with the people's will to inform the masses and their representatives of all the facts related to his responsibility in the fulfillment of his constitutional oath and in the performance of his duties. In this way, the masses can participate in events, which is particularly important when we are standing at a historic crossroads that has great consequences for the present and the future. [passage omitted]

Brother and sister members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council, we find that there are some people who are claiming at news conferences or in published statements distributed here and there that Saddam Husayn agreed on 5 August to withdraw. We see that this did not happen. Why then did he not withdraw? When I called for a summit on withdrawal, why did you not say that he had agreed to do so? Why did you not tell us? Not to have done so is treason. If you were covering up, then the matter is closed. But to come later and say that he had agreed and intended to withdraw, well, let him then withdraw. When we condemned, they got upset. Are we dealing with children? Just because I get upset, does this mean I go and destroy my country, my people, my army? What is this? What is this commotion? This is strange. They said that Saddam Husayn agreed on 5 August to withdraw but the Arab summit put up obstacles to this Arab solution. By God, if I were in a difficult position, I would decide to withdraw to protect my people, my country, my citizens, my equipment, and my country's future whether there is a summit or not. [applause]

This is indisputable. Any nationalist leader who loves his country or who sees that danger is threatening his people must stop immediately. I would yield and retreat 600 million times to prevent the death of one citizen. What is this? Pulling so many millions behind me, should I subject them to danger so as to satisfy my ego? If this is the case, then the world is upside down.

Brothers, I do not want to comment on such talk and such a farce which is used as a tool to shirk responsibility for this bitter reality which we have tried with desperate and superhuman efforts to avoid. I do not want to talk about the hypocritical or hesistant stands which have opted for playing with fire and fanning it while the entire world has been seeking to extinguish it and opting for peace. Misleading shouts have been raised by those whose consciences have allowed them to depict the occupation of Kuwait as an Islamic act which Muslim people must bless and protect from the enemies of Islam and Muslims. What is this talk? When has Islam allowed the invasion of Islamic territories and the intimidation of people with looting, theft, rape, and squandering of resources? Since when have those who are zealous about Islam started to look at Saddam Husayn as the champion of Islam after his invasion of Kuwait even though they had openly accused him of being an agent, of being hostile to Islam, and of deviating from its teachings when he entered the war against Iran?

Is Kuwait not an Islamic country like Iran? Is it not also an Arab country which we are linked to with a national bond in addition to the spiritual relationship? Does it not increase the contrast that Kuwait is a small country that has never posed a threat to anyone? It cannot be said that it threatens the Arab nation's security. Are not the Kuwaitis—who have been executed by firing squad or at the scaffold, whose houses and infants' incubators were looted, and whose honor was violated—Muslims? Does Islam permit an individual, whoever he may be, to destroy a Muslim Arab people that are his good neighbors and maintain the most generous ties with him, and at the same time subject his own people, homeland, and achievements to danger?

Why all this? So that it might be said that he defied the entire world? Is not the issue the content and justification of this defiance? Are we embarking on transient heroics, or are we faced with the issue of determining the destiny of nations and the security of a whole region that includes millions of Arabs and Muslims?

If they are claiming that the foreign forces have desecrated the holy land when they took up their positions alongside Arab and Islamic forces hundreds of miles from the holy shrines, is the firing of Iraqi missiles at Saudi cities in order to destroy them a legitimate and rightful act? Is this considered an assault on this land's sanctity? Do Muslims live on this land, against whose secure houses missiles have been aimed to destroy them and kill the women and children in them? Is this the respect due the holy land?

Was the preparation to invade Saudi territory and send Iraqi armed forces to its borders on the day Kuwait was invaded an Islamic act and a sign of veneration and respect for the holy land?

Are the Muslim Kuwaitis and Saudis who are now defending their land and homes waging a religious war against Islam and the Muslims? Are the forces of the

Islami countries that deployed in their tens of thousands and joined the liberation forces also foreign forces waging a religious war on the Muslims?

I do not know why those trembling ones are not directing their voices and appeals to Iraq's ruler to withdraw from Kuwait and bring the curtain down on this tragedy, the likes of which Arab history has not seen since the Great Sedition [early Islamic schism between supporters and opponents of fourth Caliph 'Ali Bin-Abu Talib, giving birth to Shiite Islam].

What is Islam to he who sees falsehood expressing itself in acts of crime and blood, and then turns around and with a hypocritical tongue defends this falsehood as a rightful act in defense of Islam and Muslims?

Brothers, we are living in critical days that call on men to carry out the deeds and speak the words of men. The Arab nation's losses increase with every passing day. Wake up, speak the words of truth, and abandon the deception of the masses. Do not run away from the facts because the responsibility is prodigious and the catastrophe which has befallen the Arab homeland is bitter and bloody.

The facts show that it was Saddam Husayn who, by his occupation of an independent, sovereign, Arab country and by terrorizing an Arab people, caused all that is happening now. He can still now stop the tragedy and put an end to the catastrophe. However, he still prefers destruction and death and rejects peace initiatives, the most recent of which was that submitted by Soviet President Gorbachev, who asked him to declare his intention to withdraw so that the war might end. The ruler of Iraq, however, prefers to sacrifice his people and army to retreating to a rightful position.

Allow me to tell some writers, despite their minority, who do not realize the pan-Arab responsibility in these fateful hours: Live up to your national conscience. I tell these writers: Live up to your national conscience. If you disregard the fact that our Egyptian forces on the battlefront are performing their duty, this imposes a national commitment on you, because the people do not disregard this fact and stand in one line, as one shield, and as one umbrella for their Armed Forces. Beware of being dragged away from this national duty, in which a hair's breadth separates light from darkness, commitment from noncommitment, and trust from betrayal.

Many disputes took place between the various parties and blocs in the United States, Britain, France, Italy, and other countries before a decision for military intervention was made—a decision not to send in forces, but to intervene. Many different views were expressed in their parliaments but all this stopped when the state made its decision, and consequently everyone stood as one voice behind their governments. This is the democracy that is aware of the meaning of national commitment and national dignity.

The call to Islam is no less deceptive than the call to the man in charge of Baghdad to resolve the Palestinian issue as a condition for talking about a withdrawal from Kuwait. He did not even say that he will withdraw if the Palestinian issue is resolved. This is an exposed deception, and is only designed to arouse the feelings and mislead the Arab public, who have the Palestinian people's issue at heart. Has the Iraqi ruler usurped the Arab Islamic state of Kuwait for the sake of resolving the Palestine issue? Has he declared, and is still declaring, that Kuwait is Iraqi territory, and that he has restored its normal status by force? Therefore, the Palestine issue has nothing to do with this. How did this issue suddenly surface as part of the crisis and the problem? These are small maneuvers on major issues. The only price of these maneuvers is the death and destruction of war. Arab public opinion cannot be deceived by the firing of a few missiles on the Israeli cities. [passage omitted]

This type of missile only creates a bang, and is ineffective [laughter and applause]. We know this type of missile quite well. When I visited him the first time, he [Saddam Husayn] admitted that the missile they fired was stronger than this type of missile, which has a short range. This type of missile is nonsense; it only makes a crater. Had I known this, I would not have been shocked. He has reduced the power of this missile and is firing it. All right, let him fire it, but what can it achieve? In a battle that has nothing to do with the Arab people's struggle in Palestine [sentence as heard].

Can anyone forget that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has diverted world attention from the Palestinian people's struggle and their intifadah against the Israeli occupation? The consequences of such acts of showmanship—which are completely void of the correct planning for supporting the Palestinian people's right to liberate their occupied territories, set up their state, and express their pan-Arab and cultural identity—will only enable Israel to obtain wider world sympathy, levy more funds, and get the newest complicated weapons. And that's what is happening.

Then the trumpets of hypocrisy started to claim that Israeli forces have moved to Saudi Arabia to participate in the war. These are cheap statements and words to complicate matters. Israel is keeping quiet [mustakinah], and is not doing anything. All this is a blatant lie that is only aimed at inciting the feelings of the Arabs. Where has Iraq been with regard to the Palestinian issue since 1948? The Palestinian issue ruined us. Our debts were caused by our expenditures for the sake of that issue. This has been forgotten. He went and swallowed up Kuwait, and said: This is to solve the Palestinian issue. I go west to liberate the east. If you want to liberate east, then head east. Show us your cleverness in the east. Where has Iraq been with regard to the Palestinian issue since 1948? What role did Iraq play in the 1956, 1967, and 1973 wars? What did Saddam Husayn do after Israel destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1982? Nothing at all. He did not even say a single word. He cursed Egypt. Israel hit his reactor, they cursed us.

These are major questions that are not finding an unequivocal answer. Did Iraq enter a grueling, eight-year war with Iran, declare to the Arab nation that it was defending its eastern flank and pan-Arab security, and then extend a hand of friendship, accord, and good-neighborliness to Iran and, with a stroke of pen, concede all the demands for which he entered war? He fought Iran to defend the eastern flank. He finished with Iran, but swallowed up the eastern flank. The Iraqi president imagined that he would be putting Egypt and the other Arab countries that reject his occupation of Kuwait in a tight spot if he launched his missiles on Israel. No. When I made an appeal to him on 31 December, I said I hope to God that they have brains. If they think of withdrawing today and begin the withdrawal, then they will put the world in a tight spot, because the world does not want to have all these weapons. He would have thrown the whole world into confusion. But their thinking is: Fire one missile here, throw a bomb there. What then? I spoke to him sincerely and faithfully. I sent verbal messages and made contacts. I tried the impossible and did what could not be done. There was no use.

Let me repeat that this is a shuffling of papers and a confusion of the vast difference between right and wrong. Our issue is to liberate Kuwait and return its legitimate government and people to their land and state, which is an Arab League and UN member [applause].

Our issue is commitment to international and Arab legitimacy which refuse, with the same strength, the occupation by a state of another sovereign state by military force. Our issue is to defend a peaceful Arab state against the injustice of an aggressive and usurper state. Maneuvers and deception will not drag us into a wrong assessment of the situation or into accepting a false concept which says that Iraq launched its aggression against Kuwait in order to liberate Palestine.

We do not need documented recognition of our historic role and our commitment regarding the cause of the Palestinian people. The great Egyptian people fought four wars and sacrificed tens of thousands of their purest sons. They sacrificed millions, or, rather, billions of their limited resources for the sake of the Palestinian people's cause. We will not cease to struggle to establish peace and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination for a single day. Over the various stages, we never hesitated to back the Palestinian people's struggle for their legitimate rights. Let us not engage any longer in fabricated one-upmanship in the name of the Palestinian question. Let us work sincerely and honestly, without allegations or one-upmanship, to place this question at the top of the international agenda after the war in the Gulf ends. Let us prove that Arabs are sincere and not playing games and that they only raise slogans when they believe in the cause and are committed to supporting it and making sacrifices for its sake.

This is what U.S. President Bush committed himself to before me and before King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. All other European leaders East and West, with whom we held intensive consultations in this connection, have also committed themselves to this. Their stands became closer to the stand we have adopted over the past years. We attracted unanimous support for that stand from the historic African household, friendly Asian states, the various countries of the Third World, and the Non-aligned Movement.

Brothers and sisters: We are eager to establish a true peace in our Arab land after this tragedy ends. We want this peace to remove the horrible effects of the war which was caused by the Iraqi president's intransigence and his insistance on dragging his people into a battle which can never serve the interests of or avert danger from any Arab or Muslim people. It is not our concern whether Saddam Husayn is removed. The Iraqi people, with all their history and culture, will remain. The Iraqi people have endured much suffering. They endured the sufferings involved in an eight-year war, gaining nothing but the blood of martyrs in every Iraqi home, big or small. They endured a life in which they obtained the minimum level of necessities, although their country is rich with resources, after these great resources—amounting to hundreds of billions—were squandered on passing ventures that served no one.

All of Egypt is with Iraq. All of Egypt will never abandon Iraq. The yardstick by which one judges a noble Arab people should never be by judging the behavior of a leadership which has imposed its will on that people, controlled their fate, and tried to control the fate of the entire Arab nation without any legitimate cause.

No Arab ever dreamed that an Arab army would occupy a fraternal Arab country, threaten entire Arab peoples in the Gulf region, which is of very strategic importance, and scare them into believing that they need someone to protect them from brothers. There is no political leader in the entire world or head of a state of a small or big country who has not put forth his best efforts to make the Baghdad ruler desist from his decision. There can be no logic that equates with insisting on the occupation of a small country and with forcing the international community into adopting a decision to liberate this country with military force and spread the war to Iraqi territory, where the military force that supports the forces of occupation is located.

In spite of all this, I say from this rostrum and on behalf of the Egyptian people and Army that we have never ceased to contribute to the international efforts that could stop the other chapters of the tragedy if the Iraqi leadership decides to avoid further bloodshed, find the right path again, and terminate the tribulation of the Iraqi people and the other people of the Arab nation. I say to all those concerned within Iraq that political missiles could bring about a demonstration by people who have been misled, but could never win a war. The Iraqi military establishment is not the property of a single person. It is the shield of the people that protects

their fate and requisites through construction, not through destruction and devastation.

Sacrifice takes place with the soul and blood. It is the call to defend the land and honor when an occupier usurps it, and it is not the call by the one who commits aggression against the land and honor, and exposes his army and people to destruction. We are far more concerned about the Iraqi people, territory, interests, and future than those who claim to support Iraq and stand to its side. We were among the first to call for the halt of this unjust war which started on that ill-omened day last August, and to seek to contain its negative ramifications and repercussions which threaten Iraq and the other Arab and Muslim people. In all this, we are not demanding that Iraq relinquish any legitimate right or make concessions over any legitimate interest. All that we are demanding and seeking is Iraq's agreement to implement the Cairo summit resolutions and Security Council Resolution 660, which call for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and its acceptance of the restoration of legitimacy there. This cannot be avoided. The international community will absolutely not listen to all those who call for anything else. This is so because the wheel of war has been put into motion, and can never be stopped unless there is withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy.

Then, in consultation and coordination with the concerned parties, we will seek to provide under Arab auspices an international agreement to a formula that will preserve Iraq's dignity, safeguard its right to live in peace and security, and achieve an end to this murderous war.

Brothers and sisters, we are standing firmly against the ambitions of those who are thinking of infringing on Iraq's safety and threatening its territorial integrity and national unity. We reject the calls for exacting revenge from Iraq, because it is the people who are suffering, and because instincts of revenge blind the eyes to the future and prevent a vision of the wide perspectives that the future provides for the peoples now standing at the threshold of the 21st century.

The Egyptian concept is based on safeguarding both Iraq and Kuwait equally, because we reject the rationale that says that the existence of one of these two fraternal countries poses a threat to the other—never—or that a choice must be made between Iraq and Kuwait. We are with both countries as members of the big Arab family and the Islamic grouping which is endowed with Islamic principles and which respects Islam's values and rules. We do not side with one party at the expense of another for some ulterior purpose or whim, but support what we believe to be right and reject what is wrong and unjust. We respect God's rule between right and wrong, between what is permissible and what is not.

Brothers and sisters: I know that pain is wrenching our hearts. But it is our fate to have freedom, justice, and light as our symbols. It is the brother's help for his brother. It is the commitment to creed, principle, and honor and not covering up sins. It is for this purpose that we have a great struggle to achieve peace and security across the Arab homeland; to reach a comprehensive peace that safeguards for each people its sovereignty and the right to self-determination; to seek firm Arab strategies for broad pan-Arab security and close economic cooperation for the sake of construction and development; and to catch up with the new world in its political, economic, and social development. Arab security cooperation will only be a sincere Arab one. Ignore the false rumors of those who are propagating lies. We are not in anyone's sphere of influence, and we will not allow the region to be subservient to the influence of anyone. Our ties with all countries are ones of full respect for sovereignty and of appreciation of joint interests. And so they shall always remain. [applause]

These are firm principles in our political edifice whose colors do not change and which do not don a different garment for every occasion. Democracy is the core of our life today, tomorrow, and every day. National and pan-Arab commitment is the constitution that governs our Arab, Islamic, and international relations, and which we have chosen on the basis of faith, conviction, and consistency. All this doubles our burdens and makes us assume heavier responsibilities. But this is Egypt. The Egypt that does not kneel or betray. Egypt, the great bastion and the strongest bastion. This is the Egypt of honest men, at a time when principles of honor and loyalty drop like dead leaves under the weight of slogans raised by opportunists and those who covet ephemeral glories. This is the Egypt which has said its courageous say in every city, village, and quarter immediately after the barbaric Iraqi invasion took place against a fraternal Arab country.

Brothers and sisters, this is the Egypt which has embraced the sons of Kuwait before welcoming them in the homes of its people. This is the Egypt which has refused to shake the hands that were extended to bribe it so that it would close its eyes, keep silent, or hold the stick from the middle. [applause]

We refused to shake these hands, and trampled the bribes with our feet. Egypt's voice rose high, upholding right, honor, and respect for human rights. We did not bargain or maneuver. Our stand was embodied in the word we gave, and our word was represented in our stand, a lofty and clear stand. We do not seek roles through which we would trade with causes, gamble with peoples' fates, or take false positions to ward off suspicion and cover up facts, out of fear of hooligans. Our role has been the same from the very first scene until the last scene. Our role has been imposed on us by a history of civilization. It materialized as a result of national and pan-Arab responsibility with honor, honesty, and sincerity. Our role testifies that we do not change our skin; nor do we wear different masks for every occasion. We do not need to wear masks because we only proceed on the basis of our conviction.[passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, at the conclusion of my testimony before history, I reiterate greetings to the Egyptian knights and shields, the sons of the Armed Forces. [applause] I address a prayer to God Almighty that the Arab nation will emerge from this tribulation with hearts that have been purged by the momentous developments, and with clear visions as to how the future should be so that we will begin a new phase toward an integrated Arab body that will respect human rights and realize a dignified, secure life for every Arab family under a just and lasting peace. To God doth belong the dominion of the Heavens and the Earth, and all that is therein, and it is He who hath power over all things. O you who believe! Persevere in patience and constancy; vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear God; that you may prosper. [Koranic verses] May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

## Mubarak Discusses War, Arab Policies

*NC2401150991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed regret over Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's strange statement that Iraq is still holding fast, unlike some Arab states which were used to lightning wars in 1967 and 1973.

President Mubarak said: When Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was told that the 1973 war was a victory, he said yes, but the Egyptians did not fight alone: They were joined by the Syrians, Palestinians, and the Iraqis as well.

In remarks to Egyptian and foreign journalists after delivering his comprehensive address to the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council today, President Mubarak explained: President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is a brother and a friend, and I do not know what made him say such things.

President Mubarak added: Yes, Iraq is holding fast, but what kind of steadfastness is this if it is being struck every day and if its people are being wrecked? He said Saddam Husayn is holding fast to keep leadership, as evidenced by what he once told a head of state—that 'Abd-al-Nasir was defeated in 1956, but he emerged as an international leader.

President Mubarak said: He ['Ali 'Abdallah Salih] should familiarize himself with geography, history, and the philosophy of the system of governance in Egypt.

President Mubarak affirmed that the Egyptian rulers safeguard the blood of their people, and when they find that the situation will lead to the killing of innocent people, they stop fighting. This was what 'Abd-al-Nasir did when he saw that the Egyptian people's blood was being shed in 1967. Therefore, he stopped fighting. The same was done by al-Sadat in 1973.

President Mubarak said: I respect and appreciate the Egyptian leaders before and after the revolution. They are patriots who stop wars at the appropriate time to spare citizens' more bloodshed.

President Mubarak added: I hope Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will read and study history thoroughly. He noted: With regard to Iraq, I said before that if I had been in the shoes of the Iraqi president and was seeing my people exposed to all these dangers, I would have gone back on my words one million times to safeguard the blood of the people who are our sons and brothers. This is the difference between us and them. Perhaps he should read geography and history carefully. He should also study the philosophy of war so that he can understand what the Egyptian leaders do and how they safeguard the blood of their sons and brothers.

Asked about his previous remarks indicating that Israel has the right to defend itself if it is hit by Iraq, the president said: In accordance with the UN Charter, every nation in the world has the right to defend itself.

The president affirmed that Iraq's launching of missiles into Israel is not to attack Israel or to occupy part of it. The objective is to draw Israel into this war so as to attain the sympathy of the Islamic world and to depict this war as a Zionist war against Islam. Therefore, the president added, I told officials in Israel that self-restraint is required, because we do not want the scope of the war to be expanded.

President Mubarak said: I believe that, for stability to be achieved in this region, Israel should keep quiet, exercise a policy of self-restraint, and focus on measures for defending itself.

Asked about the demonstrations in certain Arab countries and the average Egyptian's reaction to this war, President Mubarak said: There are demonstrations in certain Arab countries because those countries have not made appropriate and just decisions. Rather, they have made wrong decisions and taken the wrong stands since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. Those countries cannot retreat from that mistake now.

President Mubarak said: But in our country Egypt, a democratic country, everything is clear to the citizens. [passage omitted]

Responding to another question on the position adopted by the three [as received] Arab Maghreb countries, particularly Algeria, which are pursuing an anti-Egypt policy, President Mubarak said: We have helped Algeria during its liberation phase, and we were subjected to the tripartite aggression in 1956 because of helping Algeria.

The president said: I do not want to go too far on this subject because relations are good between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and myself. I do not want to talk about this subject in the hope that the Algerian people would at one point take note of the rumors for what they are—rumors that they hear and that make them do what they are doing. But, the day will inevitably arrive when they will understand that Egypt was right and supports rights.

President Mubarak stressed that if Algeria had been subjected to what Kuwait was subjected to, we would have supported Algeria wholeheartedly, and I wish they understood that.

Asked if there is an Egyptian initiative to find a way out of the crisis in the Gulf, President Husni Mubarak stressed that it is all up to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He said: If the Iraqi president can make a statement and begin withdrawal from Kuwait, this will spare us all those problems very quickly.

President Mubarak went on to say: In fact, the Iraqi president is not responding to any initiative and does not want to make any moves. In this regard, President Mubarak explained that all possible initiatives for a solution to this crisis have already been proposed. He also stressed that there is no point [of proposing new initiatives] as long as the Iraqi president is saying that Kuwait is part of Iraq and that any aggression against Kuwait is considered an aggression against Baghdad and Basra. [passage omitted]

### Mubarak, Saudi Prince Confer on Gulf Situation

*NC2401193591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1829 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Jan (MENA)—Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, today telephoned President Husni Mubarak.

The telephone exchange involved a review of the current developments in the Gulf region in light of the difficult situation in the Arab world as a result of the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait and the subsequent operations that aim at liberating Kuwait in fulfillment of the international resolutions in this regard.

During the telephone exchange, President Mubarak learned about the current course of events and asked the Saudi crown prince to convey his best regards and wishes to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and the Saudi people.

### Diplomat Among Five Egyptians Deported From Sudan

*NC2401202191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] It was r ported at Cairo airport today that Sudanese authorities have deported five Egyptians, including one diplomat, after they were held for 48 hours at Khartoum Airport.

The five Egyptians, who arrived in Cairo on board a Sudan Airways flight, asserted that they were badly treated at the Sudanese airport. The same source [as heard] stressed that one of those five was a diplomat entrusted with fulfilling a mission in Khartoum.

### Negative Effect of Scud Strikes on Israel Noted

*PM2401111891 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 23 Jan 91 p 7*

[Editorial: "Israel and the Gulf War"]

[Text] Saddam Husayn's bombardment of Israel with Scud-B missiles, which are of limited effect and known to observers as merely "political missiles", has strengthened Israel's position in the present crisis. In fact, it helped Israel overcome U.S. pressure to restrict its role in this crisis. On the one hand, U.S. pressure on Israel to keep out of the operations theater has turned into a mere appeal to Israeli leaders not to retaliate; and on the other, Tel Aviv is now being visited by various U.S. officials, thereby ending the isolation about which Israel has been complaining.

Furthermore, as part of the deal on not retaliating against Iraqi strikes, Israel has obtained "Patriot" anti-missile missiles, amid international approval and relief. We definitely need to ponder this point: Whereas in the past the Arabs put pressure on the United States to reduce arms supplies to Israel, these missiles are now arriving in Israel with hardly any opposition.

What we are witnessing is the first ouctome of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its impact on Arab national security. Israel's defenses capabilities are being enhanced with the arrival of the "Patriot" anti-missile missiles operated by American crews!

## Mauritania

### Iraqi Embassy Sources 'Convinced of Victory'

*AB2401162091 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] For the third time, Iraqi missiles last night bombed the capital of the Zionist (?state), killing several Israelis and wounding others. Some buildings were also damaged. This was reported by foreign news agencies. Meanwhile, Iraqi forces have continued to resist air raids against the Iraqi towns. According to a balance-sheet contained in a military communique published by the General Headquarters of the Iraqi Armed Forces, Iraq has so far shot down 228 air targets including fighter planes and missiles.

Official sources at the Iraqi Embassy in Nouakchott stated that contrary to what some foreign media were reporting, Iraq was feeling good. Its Army and its people are mobilized behind their leader, President Saddam Husayn, and they are gallantly resisting the aggression of which they are victims. They are convinced that they will come out victorious. The same sources added that Iraq is sure of winning a crushing victory and neither the planes nor the enemy missiles will cause the firm desire of the Iraqi people to waver. Sources stressed that the debris of these planes and these missiles have become toys in the hands of Iraqi children. According to the same official sources, Baghdad, al-Basrah, and al-Mawsil and all the other Iraqi towns, villages, and districts are still resisting the bombing of the enemy forces and they are convinced of victory.

### More Pro-Iraqi Demonstrations Reported

*AB2401142091 Paris AFP in French 2315 GMT 23 Jan 91*

[Text] Nouakchott, 23 Jan (AFP)—A fresh demonstration staged by several hundred people hostile to the

allied forces and in favor of Saddam Husayn, but which was not as big as the initial ones, took place today in Nouakchott, it was learned from a reliable source. The demonstrators, wearing the Iraqi emblem, shouted slogans hostile to the allied forces while portraying Saddam Husayn as a hero, the same source added. Police quickly dispersed the demonstration, which took place near the area where Western embassies are located.

### AMI Reassures Foreign Residents; Schools Closed

*AB2101222491 Paris AFP in French 1910 GMT 21 Jan 91*

[Text] Nouakchott, 21 Jan (AFP)—Foreigners working in Mauritania "have no reason to worry," the MAURITANIAN NEWS AGENCY (AMI) stated today. AMI has rejected recent news reports about a climate of insecurity for foreigners.

"These technical assistants and their families will remain our people's guests as long as they are in Mauritania, where they have come with the agreement of the Mauritanian authorities to make their precious contributions to assist in our country's development," AMI further stated.

AMI was reacting to reports about the departure yesterday by regular flights of about 100 women and children, mostly French. These families left Mauritania after spending several days at the French Embassy, where about 1,000 of them had "assembled" at the request of the Mauritanian authorities to better ensure their security during demonstrations following the onset of the Gulf war.

The embassy district in Nouakchott has remained under tight surveillance, while most of the "assembled" foreigners returned to their residences yesterday and today. No demonstrations have been observed in Nouakchott since 18 January, the same source stated. School establishments, where the demonstrations had started, have been closed until 23 January by government order.

## Sudan

### Government Protests 'Hostile' Egyptian Statement

*EA2401115291 Khartoum SUNA in English 0934 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jan (SUNA)—Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul yesterday conveyed to the Egyptian ambassador to here Sudan's protest regarding the hostile statement of the Egyptian officials against Sudan. Sahlul reviewed with the diplomat conjunctures of the week's pro-Iraq demonstrations which led to the closure of the Cairo University branch here and the Egyptian educational mission schools. The ambassador expressed Egypt's adherence to preserve relations with Sudan, saying the statements took place in circumstances of tension the Arab nation now witnesses. The foreign minister express [as received] Sudan's commitment not to cause any disturbance to its relations with Egypt.

Stating to Sudan T.V. following his meeting (?with) Sahlul the Egyptian ambassador attributed the closure of the university (?branch) to the intention of saving their students and teaching staff. He urged the mass media in both countries to exercise restraint and be cautious while dealing with Sudan and Egypt news and publications.

### 'Excesses' in Anti-Egypt Demonstrations

*NC2301111891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Jan 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jan (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul has affirmed that the excesses that took place during Saturday's demonstrations in Khartoum against the Egyptian leadership and people do not reflect the views of the Sudanese Government or people.

In a meeting this morning with Dr. Hasan Jad al-Haqq, Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum, the Sudanese foreign minister said that the Sudanese Government rejects these excesses. He stressed the national salvation government's eagerness to contain the crisis and continue the longstanding, historic, and brotherly relations between the two sisterly peoples of Egypt and Sudan.

During the meeting, the Egyptian ambassador underlined Egypt's eagerness to promote the brotherly relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. He hoped such excesses will not recur, in view of the special relationship between the two countries.

Early this morning, Sahlul asked for an urgent meeting with Dr. Jad al-Haqq to inform him of the government's position on the excesses that occurred.

### SPLA Accuses Army Commander of Summary Executions

*EA2201211691 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Jan 91*

[Text] Reports reaching Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] from SPLA cells in Damazin have revealed that the Army commander in Shali in Southern Blue Nile personally executed nine civilians by shooting them in the back of the head using a pistol, while the victims' hands and legs were tied. Radio SPLA will announce the names of the victims as soon as they are received. The Shali commander accused them of collaborating with the SPLA, took the law into his own hands, and executed them summarily and in person. The SPLA condemns in the strongest terms this gross and hideous violation of human rights by local commanders, who shoot innocent civilian citizens at will and with relish for the mere suspicion of being SPLA agents or sympathisers, and without the slightest evidence.

## Kuwait

### Government Spokesman Interviewed on War Progress

*AU2501094891 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 24 Jan 91 p 2*

[Interview with unidentified Kuwaiti Government spokesman by "F. Gy," on the telephone from al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia: "Interview With the Kuwaiti Government Spokesman—Saddam Husayn Is Alone...."—first paragraph is MAGYAR HIRLAP introduction]

[Text] While extremely different views are emerging on the prospects of the Gulf war, MAGYAR HIRLAP was interested in the opinion of one of the sides which is very much involved, namely the Kuwaiti Government-in-exile in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia. We interviewed the Kuwaiti Government spokesman there.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] What is your opinion about the Iraqi attacks against Israel?

[Spokesman] I do not know exactly the situation in Israel, but the Kuwaiti Air Force attacked Iraqi targets in Kuwait today. What happened in Israel is not our problem. Our problem is to see to it that Saddam Husayn gets out of Kuwait as quickly as possible. It is quite possible that Iraq is attacking Israel for political reasons.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Would you accept Israel's fighting on the Arab side against Iraq in the international coalition?

[Spokesman] I have no idea what Saddam is now doing against Israel, and this is not important. The important thing is that Saddam is alone....

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Do you hope to return to Iraq soon?

[Spokesman] I hope for the best. I hope we will return in a few days. We are prepared.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] What is the mood in al-Ta'if? Are the people nervous or optimistic?

[Spokesman] Naturally, we are optimistic. Everything is okay here. Everything here is going goes according plan.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Do you command the Kuwaiti Air Force? Do you give the orders for air attacks?

[Spokesman] Yes, but of course there is a certain coordination with the other armies.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] What is Saddam Husayn's situation now?

[Spokesman] I think that his stand has now become very precarious.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] The Kuwaiti oil fields are burning. What do you know about this, and what does Saddam intend to do with the oil fields?

[Spokesman] Saddam says that he is burning or attacking only certain oil fields. As everyone knows, however, Saddam is a terrorist capable of anything.

## Saudi Arabia

### Allied Forces Issue Military Communique No. 7

*LD2401192691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 91*

["Military Communique No. 7 issued by the Joint Forces and Field of Operations Command" on 24 January, read to journalists by Joint Forces spokesman Staff Colonel Ahmad Mohammad Rubay'an—recorded]

[Text] The Joint Forces Command is doing its best to provide information to the citizens via various media on all the sisterly and friendly forces deployed on the frontline, which are getting ready to take part in the next phase of Desert Storm aimed at the liberation of the sisterly State of Kuwait. Please note that this communique may report some information already announced by us and the friendly side. This information has been obtained from one source to ensure accuracy and the security of operations.

At 2257 yesterday evening, Wednesday, 23 January, the aggressor fired two Scud missiles in the direction of the eastern region, another two missiles in the direction of Riyadh, and one missile in the direction of the northern region. With God's help, all the missiles were intercepted and destroyed by Patriot missiles.

The aggressor is still intermittently shelling some border regions without having inflicted any damage or human or material losses on our positions. Our forces continue to deal with the source of the aggressor's firing, and to silence them with artillery and joint air forces.

Air operations have continued with missions against military targets inside Iraqi and Kuwaiti territories. The Air Force of the sisterly State of Bahrain has taken part for the first time in the joint air operations, sorties of which have reached over 15,000 including around 1,007 carried out by our Air Force.

The cooperating air forces yesterday lost one U.S. aircraft, whose pilot ejected and was rescued. He is unharmed. Here we would like to point out that the number of aircraft shot down by the aggressor's defenses compared with the number of the successful sorties executed by the joint air forces reflects the extent of the air superiority of the joint forces and confirms that the operations are progressing according to plan.

At 1235 today, Thursday, two Iraqi Mirage F-1 aircraft were detected progressing from north to south at low altitude parallel to the coastline of the Arabian Gulf. A Saudi Royal Air Force patrol, consisting of two F-15 aircraft, was scrambled. One of our aircraft was able to engage the aggressor's aircraft and shot down both of them, and our aircraft returned safely to base.

At 0258 today, our Saudi Royal Navy destroyed one vessel of the aggressors in the northern part of the Arabian Gulf. The vessel was laying mines. It was detected and destroyed by one of our Navy's vessels. A helicopter took off from one of the warships of the friendly navies and went to the position of the aggressor's vessels and confirmed that it was destroyed and sunk.

These events confirm the accuracy of the coordinated military operations of the joint forces in all services, Army, Navy, Air Force and Air defences.

May God guide us.

### Qaruh Island Retaken

*LD2401214991 London KUNA in Arabic 2130 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Jan (KUNA)—The joint forces announced that tonight they were able to rid Qaruh Island completely of Iraqi enemy elements.

A communique on this pointed out that the joint forces chased two Iraqi minesweepers near the island and sank them.

The communique added that during the rescuing of the Iraqi seamen, the joint forces were subjected to firing from the island. Thus, they fired back and achieved their mission of ridding the island completely of the enemy elements.

### Kuwaiti Raids on Iraqi Targets Reported

*LD2501104491 London KUNA in Arabic 0936 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Dhahran, 25 Jan (KUNA)—Kuwaiti pilots continue their successful sorties against hostile Iraqi targets inside occupied Kuwait. They have been stressing that they will protect the land of their country and not miss their targets—where Iraqi forces are deployed.

A Kuwaiti pilot, who just returned to the air base after a successful sortie, said: We destroyed the target 100 percent. We are ready for more of these missions to destroy Iraqi targets there. He explained that his targets were barracks and the Iraqi forces' positions of concentration. Eight Kuwaiti aircraft carried out sorties throughout yesterday and returned safely to base. He said that bad weather conditions sometimes make it difficult to see targets closely. He stressed his lack of concern about Iraqi fortifications and the lack of tangible Iraqi resistance.

Another pilot said that Kuwaiti pilots of various ranks are carrying out sorties with very high morale. He expressed his extreme pleasure at the commencement of the liberation war.

### French Attacks Reported

*LD2501113191 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Text] French Jaguars carried out two raids for the second day running on Iraq and Kuwait this morning against units of Saddam Husayn's Republican Guard and against artillery batteries. All aircraft returned safe and sound [Paris Domestic Service in French at 1000 GMT on 25 January reports that Mirage-2000 aircraft also performed an escort mission over Saudi Arabia]. The Kuwaiti target, however, could not be dealt with because of bad weather, the chief of the general staff of the Armed Forces said, but will be dealt with during the day.

General Schmitt said that time is on our side, which allows us to be careful about the cost in human life. Saddam Husayn knows this, and the remarks he made on his visit to the front the day before yesterday show that he cannot wait for the beginning of a ground confrontation. Saddam also says that his air force is disoriented, the general said.

### Saudi Pilots Reportedly Defect to Jordan

*LD2401130791 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Our special correspondent in Amman reports that five Saudi pilots are reported to have deserted and taken refuge in Jordan to express their disagreement with Saudi policy.

### Spokesman Denies Report

*LD2401232591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2239 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Riyadh 24 Jan SPA—A spokesman for the joint command and operations theater gave a statement to SPA today in which he said:

"Radio Sanaa quoted French radio attributing to its correspondents in Amman that—according to the radio claims—five Saudi pilots escaped with their aircraft to Jordan."

The source added:

"The joint command, in categorically denying this news, expresses deep regret that the radio has been dragged into relaying false news fabricated for malicious exposed goals."

### Eight Iraqi Soldiers Surrender to Egyptians

*NC2401180591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1757 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—A responsible military source has stated that eight Iraqi soldiers in occupied Kuwait have surrendered to Egyptian forces in Hafr al-Batin. The source added: Our forces received them as brothers.

The Iraqi soldiers asserted that they are not convinced about the aggressive policy being pursued by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi soldiers were handed over to the Saudi authorities.

### Crown Prince Reassures Mubarak on War Progress

*LD2401185291 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, today telephoned Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

SPA has learned that during the call a review was made of events and developments in the Arab Gulf region in light of the difficult circumstances through which the Arab region is passing as a result of the Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait, and the consequent operation to liberate Kuwait in accordance with Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions.

During the call President Mubarak was reassured about the progress of events. He asked his royal highness the crown prince to convey his greetings and best wishes for success to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and to the honorable Saudi people.

### Ministry Denies Yamani Claim of Oil Output Cut

*LD2401212591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Riyadh 24 Jan (SPA)—A responsible source at the Saudi Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources stated to SPA that what [former Petroleum Minister] Ahmad Zaki Yamani said to the BBC about Saudi Arabia's reducing its oil production by 2 million barrels per day since the beginning of the Gulf war is completely unfounded.

The source stressed that as far as information about Saudi petroleum is concerned, no one should rely on predictions, and the only reliable source is what is issued by the Saudi Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

### Officers Said To Approve Israeli Use of Airspace

*LD2401212791 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Athens, Jan 24, IRNA—Saudi military officers have told the Cable News Network (CNN) television that they have nothing against Israel using Saudi airspace to launch attacks against Iraq.

"They indicated as military men that they would have no problems if the Israelis overfly Saudi airspace," the CNN correspondent from Saudi Arabia reported today evening.

The Zionist state has said it would certainly retaliate against Iraq for the missiles attacks but does not say when and how.

The Western world would most probably agree to pay Israel dlrs 13 billion for its temporary self-restraint in order to keep the unholy alliance intact.

### 100 Allied Troops Allegedly Die in Brawl

*PA2301022391 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Jan 91*

[Text] At least 100 soldiers died and several were wounded during a brawl between U.S. troops and Muslim forces comprising the multinational force in Saudi Arabia, according to reports from the PRENSA LATINA news agency.

## United Arab Emirates

### Ports Director Reports Navigation Normal, Safe

*NC2501045791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Dubayy, 24 Jan (WAKH)—Ahmad Batti, director general of Dubayy ports for Rashid seaport affairs, has asserted that navigation in the port of Rashid is proceeding normally and that ships are being received and serviced in the usual way.

He said between 10 and 12 ships have been arriving daily in the port since the beginning of the Gulf war. He referred to the increase in the number of transit containers discharged during that period, noting that these containers were originally destined for Saudi and Bahraini ports.

Batti stated that 614,000 containers were unloaded in 1990, in contrast to 644,000 containers in 1989. He described the drop as relative during the months of September, October, and November.

He added that navigation sources have confirmed that navigation is safe in the southern part of the Gulf.

### Saddam Chairs Joint RCC-Ba'th Party Meeting

*NC2401214791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2110 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. [Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 25 January carries an identical report, giving no date for the meeting.]

### Reportage on Allied Forces' POW's, Casualties

#### U.S. Troops Said Captured

*NC2401182691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] The AKHBAR AL-YAWM news agency has cited Iraqi military sources in Baghdad as saying that several U.S. servicemen lost their way while heading to their headquarters in the Saudi desert, entered Iraqi territory by mistake, and were all arrested.

According to the same sources, other U.S. soldiers died of thirst and hunger in a desert location after a battery failed in the only radio linking them with their command.

In another report, AKHBAR AL-YAWM says that U.S. authorities have found three U.S. servicemen, one of them an officer, dead in a military jeep in a location near Bedouin tents.

#### TV Interviews Three 24 Jan

*NC2401200891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1834 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Unidentified interviewer questions pilots in English, then translates answers into Arabic. Pilots speak in English throughout. Interviewer's translations are provided where different from pilot's English response.]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, tonight the Republic of Iraq television aired new interviews with other captured American pilots. The pilots, holding the ranks of colonel, major, and lieutenant, gave information about the nature of the aggressive tasks they were charged with. The television of the Republic of Iraq has conducted similar interviews with a number of captured American, British, and Italian pilots. We have presented these interviews during the past two days.

Ladies and gentlemen, we give you the new interviews:

[Begin recording] [Interviewer, in English] (?Will you give me) your name and rank, please.

[Eberly] Colonel David William Eberly.

[Interviewer, in English] What is your nationality, David?

[Eberly] (?From) the United States.

[Interviewer, in English] What is the kind of your plane and which squadron?

[Eberly] F-15, from the 4th Tactical Squadron.

[Interviewer, in Arabic] I fly an F-15 from the 4th Combat Tactical Wing.

[Interviewer, in English] What is the base of your squadron?

[Eberly] [words indistinct]

[Interviewer, in Arabic] Al-Kharj.

[Interviewer, in English] And where is that?

[Eberly] In the center of Saudi Arabia.

[Interviewer, in English] What are your targets in Iraq in this mission?

[Eberly] Scud missile and associated chemical facilities.

[Interviewer, in English] And how you were shot down?

[Eberly] I don't know.

[Interviewer, in English] David, how were you injured in this (?operation)?

[Eberly] I was wounded when trying to [words indistinct].

[Interviewer, in Arabic] I believe I was wounded in the neck either in [words indistinct] the plane, or when I hit the ground with the parachute.

[Interviewer, in English] What is your name and rank, please?

[Slade] Lieutenant Lawrence Randolph Slade.

[Interviewer, in English] What is your age?

[Slade] 26.

[Interviewer, in English] Nationality?

[Slade] American.

[Interviewer, in English] What is the kind of your plane?

[Slade] F-14.

[Interviewer, in English] From which squadron?

[Slade] [words indistinct]

[Interviewer, in Arabic] From the squadron called BF-103.

[Interviewer, in English] And what is the base of that squadron?

[Slade] Saratoga.

[Interviewer, in Arabic] This squadron is affiliated with the aircraft carrier Saratoga.

[Interviewer, in English] What was your mission?

[Slade] Was for protection.

[Interviewer, in Arabic] My mission was to protect planes.

[Interviewer, in English] Protection for what?

[Slade] [words indistinct] (?B-6).

[Interviewer, in Arabic] My mission was to protect a bomber plane of type [word indistinct].

[Interviewer, in English] And how were you shot down?

[Slade] I don't know.

[Slade [sentence indistinct] (?crush) [words indistinct]

[Interviewer, in Arabic] There was [words indistinct] and I could not control the plane.

[Interviewer, in English] And then did you [words indistinct]

[Slade] [words indistinct]

[Interviewer, in Arabic] [words indistinct]

[Interviewer, in English] Will you give me your name and rank please?

[Griffith] Major Thomas Edward Griffith.

[Interviewer, in English] What is your age, Edward... [changes thought] Thomas?

[Griffith] I am 34 years old.

[Interviewer, in English] Nationality?

[Griffith] American.

[Interviewer, in English] And what is the kind of your plane, Thomas?

[Griffith] The F-15.

[Interviewer, in Arabic] A fighter plane of the type F-15E.

[Interviewer, in English] Are you the pilot or the navigator?

[Griffith] I am a navigator.

[Interviewer, in English] From which squadron?

[Griffith] The (?335th EFS) [letters indistinct].

[Interviewer, in Arabic] He belongs to Squadron No. 335EFS.

[Interviewer, in English] What is the base of that squadron?

[Griffith] [word indistinct] al-Kharj.

[Interviewer, in English] (?Where is that?)

[Griffith] In central Saudi Arabia.

[Interviewer, in English] What was your target?

[Griffith] [words indistinct] targets in western Iraq.

[Interviewer, in Arabic] We aimed at targets in western Iraq.

[Interviewer, in English] And how were you shot down?

[Griffith] I don't know.

[Interviewer, in Arabic] I do not know how I was shot down [word indistinct].

[Interviewer, in English] Thank you. [end recording]

### Comparison of U.S., Italian Pilots

*NC2401234091*

Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic at 2125 GMT on 24 January carries a 12-minute recording of interviews with American pilot Jeffrey Norton Zaun and Italian pilot Murizio Cocciolone "aired tonight by Iraq Republic television." No place or time is given for the interviews. Comparison with the recorded interview broadcast at 1834 GMT on 23 January and published in the 24 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on pages 22-23 allows for the following addition:

Page 23, column 2, third paragraph, from last sentence, where Cocciolone speaks in English, make read: ...am still alive.

[Interviewer, in Arabic] Every war has a cause. You have no cause in this war. The people of Iraq are neither hostile to you nor have committed aggression against your country and your people. If you had been destined to be (?killed) in this war, [words indistinct] what is your cause in committing aggression against the (?steadfast) people of Iraq?

[Translator, in English] [words indistinct] Iraq did not attack Italy, did not attack the Italian people. Iraq is not your enemy or the enemy of your people. So, if you had died what do you think [words indistinct] for what cause you have died?

[Cocciolone] Me and my friends have been talking a lot about this war [words indistinct].

[Translator, in Arabic] My friends and I talked a lot about this war and the (?reasons) that pushed Italy to participate against Iraq. However, we found no real reason to make us wage this war. Therefore, I say to you that if I had died no one would remember me for any cause. [words indistinct]

[Interviewer, in Arabic] Do you have any advice to give to your colleagues, the pilots?

[Translator, in English] Do you have anything to say, do you have anything to tell to your friends, to your colleagues the pilots after you have been shot down?

[Cocciolone] [passage indistinct]

[Translator, in Arabic] I have thought a great deal about this matter. All that I can say to my colleague pilots is the following: Keep away from Iraqi airspace because it is deadly.

[Interviewer, in English] Thank you. (supplying additional material)

### Interviews To Stop

*NC2501105191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1037 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Text] A Culture and Information Ministry spokesman has announced that the broadcasting of interviews with captured pilots on Iraqi television will stop. The number of interviews screened so far is considered sufficient until further notice.

The spokesman promised the citizens in the country, the Arab homeland, and the world that Iraqi television will resume screening interviews with captured pilots at the appropriate time.

### British Pilot Reported Captured

*NC2501043591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0405 GMT 25 Jan*

[Text] In compliance with the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn, a number of citizens from the al-Zubayr district in the valiant al-Basrah Governorate have captured a British pilot after the men of our ground defenses shot down his aircraft, which was targeting residential neighborhoods in the district.

The citizens handed over the captured pilot to the competent authorities.

### 'Stealth' Plane Said Downed

*NC2501121391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jan 91 p 1*

[Text] Amman—Palestinian sources have cited 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Baghdad, as saying that Iraqi ground defenses and missiles shot down a U.S. "Stealth" aircraft over Baghdad in the last few days.

### 5,000 U.S., British Casualties Alleged

*NC2401201091 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 19 Jan 91 pp 1, 3*

[Text] A reliable source stressed yesterday that in the past two days, more than 5,000 British and U.S. forces have been killed in the war with Iraq, of whom 2,000 are from the 7th British division. These soldiers were entrapped in the oil-filled trenches in the ground attack on Kuwait on Thursday and were burned alive.

The source added: The loss of 2,000 British soldiers caused fear and generated discord among the British, French, and Americans, and most probably the effects will become clear in the next few hours.

The source added: Ninety percent of the airplanes downed so far were American ones. The reports on the multinational forces appear correct so far, as the military command has abstained from giving any details of the results of the attacks by the multinational forces on the Iraqi Armed Forces.

### Chemical Weapons Said Moved to Turkish Border

*LD2501152191 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1400 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Excerpt] Iraq is threatening to use force against Turkey after Turkey permitted U.S. bombers to raid Iraq from Turkish bases. At the same time, the stream of refugees from Iraq to Turkey is continuing. There is fear at the Iraq-Turkey border of Iraqi chemical weapons and missiles.

Our correspondent Leena Reikko interviewed a soldier who fled from Iraq in the Hakkari border town.

[Reikko] [figure indistinct] missiles have been deployed in northern Iraq 130 km from the Turkish border, a 27-year-old soldier, who fled from the Iraqi Army to Hakkari in southeastern Turkey two days ago stated. He says that Turkey has good reason to fear Saddam Husayn's chemical weapons. The man said that he himself had taken part in the transport of the weapons to the Turkish border. The missiles have a range of up to 500 km, and would thus reach the bases of Batman and Diyarbakir, both of which have allied fighter planes.

Here in Hakkari, less than 100 km from the border with Iraq, another group of 100 refugees are expected this evening. According to the local authorities, over 300 refugees have arrived here so far. Now that the crisis has turned into war, the number of people fleeing across the mountains is expected to grow further. The refugees include both soldiers and civilians; many have paid $500 to smugglers who guide them across the mountains during the night. [passage omitted]

### Cairo 'Diplomatic Sources:' Iraq Has 7,500 Scuds

*PM2401150691 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Jan 91 p 1*

[Text] Iraqi sources have said that Iraq's losses as a result of allied bombing during the first three days of the war reached 151 dead and scores of wounded.

In another development, AL-WAFD has learned that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has decided to turn the Iraqi Embassy in Amman into a temporary headquarters for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry should communications

be cut off between Baghdad and the rest of the world. The Foreign Ministry is currently using the Amman embassy to issue directives to Iraqi diplomatic missions abroad.

Meanwhile, informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have disclosed that Iraq possesses 7,500 Scud missiles, which are capable of carrying nuclear warheads. These sources also said that Iraq has requested the Iranian authorities' immediate intervention to persuade Turkey not to permit U.S. forces to use its territory for launching attacks against Iraq. Baghdad warned Ankara not to get embroiled in the war.

## Military Statements, Communiques on Situation

### Spokesman Denies Island Seized

*NC2501104491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0950 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Statement by military spokesman; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In a reckless attempt, the infidel, occupying, aggressor Americans are trying to cover up their miscalculations which led them to perpetrate the crime of unsuccessful aggression and killing. Their reckless air raids, for which they had prior expectations of success, have not achieved their objectives, causing them to feel confused and at a loss. Thus, instead of clashing with our ground forces in the 19th province [Kuwait] as they announced before the showdown, they have started to keep themselves and public opinion occupied by carrying out a criminal bombardment of residential areas and civilian targets, passing the days fruitlessly except for bloodshed.

Amid a climate of frustration and miscalculation, the criminals came up with the idea of telling public opinion that they achieved a victory with one helicopter gunship, which fired its shells from a distance to liberate a small rocky island in the Arab Gulf, the name of which is not known to the Iraqis.

In order to clarify matters and to deny an opportunity to those who try to preoccupy American public opinion with things that will not allow it to reach the right conclusion, which is that the aggression is unjustified and a crime for which the aggressors will pay, we say that Iraq's territorial waters along its southern border include small rocky islands which appear and disappear partially or completely depending on the tide. This is in addition to the known island of Faylaq. Some of these islands have names known to local fishermen, and some do not have national names, but only local names. Some of these islands have been used as isolated monitoring sites in the sea where elements have been deployed on them. These elements' sole task is communication or communication and short-term engagement with the aim of hampering forward maritime forces and in accordance with special calculations and for a specified period of time.

Therefore, when the decision is made to withdraw any of our elements from these islands or any of the boats anchored here and there before and after the military aggression, this is the result of military considerations and not of any alleged victory by those deprived of victory, God willing, against the great believing and struggling great Iraq.

We wanted to clarify these facts to undermine these and future enemy allegations. By shedding light on the failing enemy's statement, which was not even given the weight the enemy desired by its own news media, we can see the severity and depth of the frustration being felt by the enemy after it had fabricated the illusion of a speedy victory and made promises about this to its agents and partners in the crime of aggression.

God is great.

### Statement Challenges West's 'Lies'

*NC2501141891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1141 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Statement by military spokesman; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The West, which is full of sins which anger God, often covers up its crimes by exploiting, oppressing, and killing peoples and nations under the slogans of liberty, democracy, human rights, supremacy of civilization, freedom of the media, and other similar claims. The showdown came in the mother of battles to publicly and extensively expose the falsity of these claims as well as how their contents conflict and contradict themselves, not merely with regard to Western imperialism's relationship with other peoples and nations, particularly the countries which the West has called the Third World, but also with regard to their own peoples. The game by which major politicians achieve rule and consolidate their positions in power for a longer time requires such conflict and self-contradiction. What has become clear is their mutual (?falsehood) illustrated by aggrandizing the stands of some countries in the political, economic, media, and [word indistinct] spheres. Perhaps the public falsehood of the United States, and indeed the statements made by its officials with their implicit threats to countries such as Japan, Germany, and Italy, are the best evidence of the total lack of the human factor in the relations among these countries and the absence of any concept amidst the slogans they use in this relationship.

The United States and Britain have been the primary sword of terrorism in this enterprise, which included the media organs. This is although the prerequisites of the parliamentary game to enable this or that politician to attain rule require a certain mode of dealing with public

opinion in their countries. We have noticed how restrictions were imposed on the media prior to and after the military aggression against Iraq. Indeed, we have noticed how their extensive lies and deceptions have become clear. Indeed, the U.S. Government, in a statement expressing its views, boastfully announced today that its weapons fired from the air have been designed to be highly accurate in order not to cause other damage when fired at military and strategic targets. According to its statement, no civilian targets or civilian individuals were hit.

Let the criminals know that their lies have been exposed, even to those who had accorded a minimum level of credibility to their reports and to their media, and that their falsity and the scandal which is linked to their crimes have been revealed. All the talk of the criminals in the White House is heard by our civilian sons living in the Baghdad residential neighborhoods hit by the shells of their ravens. Their talk is also heard by the nomads who live in the Karbala' desert and in the wilderness in the al-Anbar, and who know how in one raid the ravens bombed the tents which are inhabited by civilians, thus killing more than 20 people, including men, women, and infants.

We are reporting this disgraceful talk to the patient sons of [word indistinct] and the sons of gallant sons of Mosul, [words indistinct], and our sons in the Karbala' of al-Husayn, the Najaf of Imam 'Ali, Dhi Qar, and all the Iraqi cities and villages which have been subjected to the crimes of aggression. We are reporting this American statement—(?substantiated by) the CNN correspondents in Baghdad—to all these residential neighborhoods and Bedouin areas, to let them know about the lies of the Bush administration to the American people and its indicating its disrespect for them by telling them this outright lie about facts which admit of no ambiguity or falsification. All the facts expose the lies of the U.S. Administration.

### Claims of 'Adverse Weather' Refuted

*NC2501110391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0948 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Statement by military spokesman; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. After the [words indistinct] and the [words indistinct] the illusion which they [word indistinct] in the feeble minds, and after they became aware of the capability of the gallant Iraqis of the air defenses and the strength of their resolve and faith which has transformed the legend of technological and air superiority into a mere illusion and forced them to rethink their calculations and rather than informing the public opinion in their countries of these brutal facts, the villains started attributing their bad luck in their missions over Baghdad and the military targets to adverse weather conditions during the past two days.

Moreover, as part of their indulgence in crime, they attempted to attack civilian neighborhoods in villages, hamlets, and small towns, and the nomads in their tents. May they and their hopes be disappointed. God is great.

### Communique Details 'Operations'

*NC2401175191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1708 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Communique No. 19 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Under the banner of God is great and with united thought and conscience, our noble people and their Armed Forces stand fast vis-a-vis the treacherous aggressions and imperialist plots, thus performing the duty in defense of the homeland and in protection of its land, sovereignty, holy places, and its independent revolutionary course.

In this noble showdown, the Iraqis reiterate, as they have always done, that they have prepared the elements of victory, and that their determination will not be undermined by any intrigues or the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic attacks.

Our operations and the enemy's aggressions are as follows:

1. The enemy carried out 10 air raids on various quarters in our beloved country;

2. Our brave air and ground defenses have shot down three enemy air targets—aircraft and missiles and;

3. It has been confirmed to us that 20 aircraft have flown from the Zionist entity to Saudi territory. This is unequivocal evidence that the agents do not rule out alliance and cooperation with the Zionist entity in the plotting and aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 7 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 24 January 1991

### '14 Air Targets' Claimed Downed

*NC2501074391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0709 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Communique No. 20 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With each passing day, the Iraqis become more solid in the face of the assaults of the barbarians and rascals against our beloved Iraq. Our Armed Forces remain capable at all times and in all places of defeating aggression and inflicting losses on the aggressors. Following is a roundup of the assaults carried out by the

enemy and the activities of the protectors of the homeland in defending their land and skies:

1. The enemy carried out 111 flying sorties against our beloved country and our forces stationed on the homeland's borders.

2. With the help of God and the efforts of our zealous men, 14 air targets, both aircraft and missiles, have been downed. Praise be to God who has enabled us to confront our enemies, assists us, and makes the dreams of the covetous invaders disappear at the hands of our sons and placed us on the path of victory. God is the best of helpers.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 8 Rajab 1411 Hegira, 25 January 1991

### Two Military Commanders Reportedly Executed

*AU2501102191 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1000 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Text] By order of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the Air Force commander and the Air Defense commander have been executed. That was reported by the Moscow information service INTERFAX today, citing Soviet Defense Ministry officials as source. There had been speculations on the execution of the Air Defense chief earlier this week. A spokesman of the Iraqi Embassay in Moscow denied the report as a lie and fabrication.

### Defense Ministry Denies Report

*AU2501121191 Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Text] Moscow, Jan 25 (AFP)—Two top Iraqi commanders were ordered shot by Saddam Husayn, the unofficial newsagency INTERFAX reported Friday, citing sources at the Soviet Ministry of Defense.

INTERFAX said they were the heads of the country's airforce and air-raid defense.

A ministry spokesman denied the report to AFP, claiming it was an INTERFAX error. "The Ministry never gave such information," he said.

Citing the same ministry sources, Interfax has, in the last few days, presented contradictory information on the results of the Allied bombing of Iraq.

### 'Official Information:' Defense Minister Wounded

*PM2501110291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 Jan 91 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Official Information Says Iraqi Defense Minister Wounded"]

[Excerpt] London, Sanaa, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Yemeni sources in Sanaa have said that the Yemeni leadership has received official information from Baghdad to the effect that Staff Major General Sa'di 'Abbas al-Juburi, Iraqi defense minister, was wounded in a raid launched by the international alliance forces against a position in southern Iraq from which the minister was supervising defense operations. The sources told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that Baghdad was concerned that the minister's injury might prevent him from carrying out his tasks in these difficult circumstances facing the Iraqi forces on all fronts. They added that he might be replaced by somebody else, despite the fact that an announcement to this effect could spark local reactions that would accelerate the collapse of the Iraqi military front. The sources added that the reason for Baghdad's decision to inform the Yemeni leadership of the Iraqi minister's injury was to reassure Baghdad's allies and to secure their support in the event of its being necessary to announce the news or his death.

Meanwhile, sources say that Yemeni popular circles have been greatly alarmed by local radio and media reports confirming that air bombardment and missiles have destroyed Iraqi positions in the border area of 'Ar'ar, where a Yemeni military force and many Yemeni troops are stationed. Baghdad earlier described them as volunteers. The sources added that women's groups met with Brigadier Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister and defense minister, and asked that their sons be returned from Iraq immediately. [passage omitted]

### Patriot, Cruise Missiles Earn 'Due Contempt'

*NC2401203291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1937 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Our dear brothers, America the superpower thinks that simple people in the world take it as a fact that a superpower does not lie because it is a superpower and because it has at its disposal a great range of inventions, technology, resources, propaganda, and fancy equipment. Why would it lie? Why should it need to lie?

America thinks that no one has the right to doubt what it says in any matter, be it politics, economics, science, the arts, war, or military industry. As for war and military industry, let us recall with due contempt two names: Patriot and cruise. The reason for our contempt is that the U.S. Patriot missile proved to be a filthy scandal that cannot prevent the Iraqi al-Husayn [Scud] missile from reaching its targets in Tel Aviv and elsewhere. However, the admirers of the Patriot in superpower America insist that it is a good formula for defending Tel Aviv, Riyadh, Tehran, and all the dens of conspiracy and aggression. This is despite the fact that it has been designed to intercept planes and not missiles.

As for the cruise, the supermissile with which they were intimidating the whole world, it was fired by the hundreds, but our valiant youths turned it into prey, and the Iraqis saw it falling to its death.

What use is lying when the Patriot fails and the cruise falls? Lies make no superpowers. Lies make no victories.

America is not the only country in this world that possesses what others cannot or do not have. Here is the world, looking at America as it lies and claims that that *the Patriot is hitting and intercepting missiles, (?but it* fails). Will America be able to protect its henchmen and lackeys with such lies? When will America understand that Iraq's strength and power are from the omnipotent God and that al-Husayn cannot be intercepted by the inept Patriot?

### UK Premier's Address to House of Commons Noted

*NC2501084091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0723 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Honorable brothers: The British prime minister, Mr. Major, yesterday addressed the House of Commons and advised members of the House to accept the bad news of his forces' losses as a result of their aggression against Iraq. Did Mr. Major believe that he had sent his forces on a pleasure trip to the Arabian Gulf or that they would be conducting aerial acrobatics? Major and other allies of the devils will regret their aggression. If Major managed to address a piece of advice his House of Commons yesterday, he will find nobody to advise him to receive the bad news with self-control, as all of them will be busy receiving the coffins of their dead. Then, Major and [words indistinct] will have nothing but regret.

Has Mr. Major forgotten that the men of Iraq today are the sons and grandsons of those who caused humiliation and anguish for London? Or has Mr. Major committed his forces to this battle lured by the scent of the U.S. dollar and the false hopes of [word indistinct] Bush and the agent amirs of ill-gotten gains, vileness, and [word indistinct]?

For the past seven days, the Iraqis have proved that they are in control of the battle, firmly led by the son of Iraq and the Arab nation, God-supported Saddam Husayn. The coming days will witness the defeat of the covetous invaders. It is God alone who grants victory.

### Talk Vows Civilian Deaths Will Be Avenged

*NC2501104191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0849 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: There is nothing in human or divine law that (?allows) enemies to strike at peaceful citizens and residential areas. However, the Americans possess a [word indistinct] which they have used to justify their actions throughout history. They dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They were the first to [words indistinct]. They have set fire to farms and killed [word indistinct], women, and children. Despite all this, the Americans talk about culture, civilization, international legitimacy, and human rights. It is as though human rights meant mobilizing armies and fleets, invading others' land, and launching an aggression against any nation that does not obey the orders of Mr. Bush, *who aspires to head a global empire.*

When the U.S. and allied aircraft began their attack on the cities of Iraq, the leaders of the anti-Iraq coalition revealed the true nature of their culture and civilization. Among the targets at which the aircraft directed their bombs and missiles were residential districts where peaceful citizens live and where health centers and holy shrines are located. If the enemies use the margin of error that they have specified as an excuse, all citizens know that many residential targets are far away from any military or other vital target.

Thus, the messengers of the new world order are proving that they are the true inheritors of the law of the jungle on which they have been nurtured since they killed the red Indians to usurp their land and build their new world.

As the men of Iraq lie in wait to hunt all the ravens that fly in the skies over Iraq, the coming days will prove how badly the enemies were deluded when they imagined that these vile acts would terrorize the Iraqis. We in Iraq are standing on firm and solid ground and nothing and no one will make us budge. Our land has men defending it, and it has a long arm that will reach all places from which the aggression originates. The oppressors will regret their evil actions against the civilians, but only when it is too late. Sooner or later they will acknowledge the lethal Iraqi blows of justice. The blood of the innocent people who were killed by the enemy bombardment will not go unavenged. They will realize that the price of every drop of Iraqi blood is the death of many evil ones who are hiding in their shelters, whether in the Saudi kingdom of [word indistinct], the Zionist entity, or other places from which the aggression originates.

### *Belgrian Firm Silent About Role in Bases

*91AN0208 Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD in Dutch 23 Jan 91 p 1*

[Article by Geert Van Hecke: "Belgian Construction Company Installed Eight Military Air Bases in Iraq"]

[Text] Brussels—In the early eighties, the Belgian construction company Besix built eight military air bases in Iraq. This was confirmed yesterday by a Besix spokesman, but the company refused to provide more details about the locations or the concept of the military bases. The project cost the Iraqi Ministry of Defense $255 million (approximately 11.5 billion Belgian francs).

"Project 505," as it is listed in Besix' order book, involved the construction of eight air bases in different locations in Iraq. The project was commissioned by the Iraqi Ministry of Defense. The Belgian construction company completed the contract between 1982 and 1985. In the building specifications, it was described as a "turnkey" project.

The company was unwilling to answer the question whether this implies that all eight installations are identical.

Besix is very reluctant to comment. "We have to keep silent for two reasons," said a company spokesman. "Besix signed a contract with the Iraqi Ministry of Defense in which the company pledged to keep silent about the project. In addition, the project is hitting the headlines at a very inopportune moment," said the company, which would not answer the question whether it fears a terrorist attack.

Besix categorically denied that the company had been involved in building the bunkers in which a major part of Saddam Husayn's Air Force planes are hidden. It said the company had not been involved in any contract since 1986.

Asked whether the United States had lately inquired about Besix' activities in Iraq, the company answered negatively: "We have not been invited to the U.S. Embassy or to any other place. Since the Belgian Government knew about our activities, we assumed that NATO was informed right from the beginning."

Besix NV (until 1984 named Six Construct) is owned for 99.9 percent by the holding company "Belgische Betonmaatschappij" [Belgian Concrete Corporation]. The company's history can be traced back to 1974, when the "Belgische Betonmaatschappij" merged several major construction companies into its Six Construct subsidiary.

The first major contract was obtained immediately afterwards: In 1975, Sybetra (a subsidiary of the Belgian "Societe Generale" holding company) scooped a billion-franc contract for Six Construct in Iraq. The contract involved the building of a phosphate plant near the city of Akashat [as published] and a chemical plant in al-Qaim.

Sybetra and Six Construct ran into problems with this project. First, Iraq created problems about the completion of the project. Afterwards, in 1984, in the middle of the Iran-Iraq war, Sybetra and Six Construct had a very hard time convincing the public that the plants were producing fertilizers only, and not the toxic gases that Saddam Husayn was using against the Kurds and the Iranians.

## German Foreign Minister Genscher Visits

### Arrives, Makes Statement

*TA2401133391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Upon arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said that the Israeli Government has faced the recent challenge very courageously and that it is not Germany's business to counsel Israel. The German Government is convinced that Israel's elected government will make the appropriate decisions and take action that will benefit the State of Israel.

The guest was driven directly from Ben-Gurion Airport to the site of Iraqi missile hits in the greater Tel Aviv area. This afternoon, he will meet with his Israeli counterpart, David Levi.

Our correspondent David Witzthum reports that at the airport a small group of five or six demonstrators carried posters on the connection between gas and Germany. Here are a few coments from the ceremony at the airport:

[Begin recording] [Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi—in Hebrew followed by translation into German] From my talks with Mr. Genscher a few months ago, I know that he was the first and almost the only one who agreed with our warnings of Saddam Husayn's aggression, warnings which I expressed to him at that time even before it was acknowledged by others. I hope that in the future, too, we will be able to attain similar understanding on impending matters. And again: Welcome.

[Genscher—in German followed by Hebrew translation] Mr. Minister, I thank you for the reception and for the fact that you have personally arrived to welcome me.

We came to Israel to prove to your people and the world where united Germany stands: at the side of the countries that support the Security Council's resolutions. It especially stands at the side of the people and the State of Israel.

We know that Israel is facing a mortal danger, and in this situation we would like Israel to know that it can rely on united Germany. [words indistinct] We commiserate with the pain of the casualties.

You, Mr. Minister and your government, have confronted the challenging provocation. It is not the business of Germany to offer you advice. [end recording]

### Provides Grant for Renovations

*TA2401175591 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Excerpts] Germany will give Israel a one-time grant of 250 million marks, it was agreed at a meeting between Foreign Minister David Levi and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his German counterpart. The meeting is still continuing. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman fills us in:

The aim of my visit to Israel is not diplomatic but moral, Hans-Dietrich Genscher declared on his arrival in Israel. Jerusalem believes that the Germans have a strong moral responsibility for the Gulf crisis, since they were the ones to provide a large part of Saddam Husayn's arsenal, including chemical weapons.

Genscher also came to Israel to hand over a one-time grant of 250 million marks, which is currently being discussed at the Foreign Ministry between the two ministers. Genscher also met Prime Minister Shamir today and will confer with Shim'on Peres tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Genscher visited the sites of the missile attacks in Tel Aviv and Ramat Gan. At the conclusion of the tour, he delivered a check for 5 million marks to help cover the cost of the renovations.

### Levi: Germany Responsible for Iraqi Weapons

*TA2401210991 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi accused Germany of supplying conventional and chemical weapons to Iraq. At a joint news conference with his German colleague Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Minister Levi said that German aid to Israel would not write off Germany's responsibility for the arming of Iraq. He reiterated that Israel would retaliate for Iraq's attacks when and how it chooses.

German Foreign Minister Genscher said that Germany feels a moral responsibility for what has happened. He promised that his government would do everything possible to make sure that German arms would never be sold again to tyrannical regimes.

### More on Levi-Genscher News Conference

*TA2401233091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] The German foreign minister has promised that German companies who have illegally exported military technology to Iraq will be prosecuted, and loopholes in the law will be plugged by new legislation. Genscher was speaking at a news conference in Jerusalem this evening, after talks with Israel's Foreign Minister David Levi. Levi said it was a tragedy that survivors of the Holocaust should have to sit in sealed rooms for fear of poison gas manufactured by Iraq with know-how supplied by Germany. Jack Katzenell has more:

Foreign Minister Levi said elderly European Jews, survivors of the Holocaust, had died of heart attacks as a result of a missile fired by Saddam Husayn. He charged that know-how, technology, instruments, and parts had

been supplied by German companies for the development of Saddam's chemical weapons and for his nuclear program.

Levi acknowledged that Hans-Dietrich Genscher was one of the few leaders of the European Community who had agreed with Israel that Saddam Husayn posed a threat to Israel's survival and to the security of the entire region. The fact that the world was now mustering against Saddam Husayn demonstrated the threat that Israel had faced day by day for so long, Levi said. And how did the Western world treat Israel during that period?, Levi asked. It put her in the dark, he said.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said he was here to tell the people of Israel that united Germany is with them, that they can rely on Germany in their hour of need. He promised that Germans who had broken the law by exporting military know-how or equipment to Iraq would be prosecuted and loopholes in the law would be plugged with new legislation.

One of the German reporters asked Genscher if he was trying to atone for what these German companies had done with a check for 250 million Deutsche marks in emergency aid to Israel. Genscher replied that the aid had been a very minor element in his talks with David Levi. Levi was furious with the suggestion that Israel could be bought. He pointed out that the European Community had set up a fund for countries which had been hit economically by the Gulf crisis, but had not included Israel. Genscher said he had already proposed that Israel be included.

### Talks With Levi About German Patriots

*TA2501085791 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0755 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Good morning from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. A few minutes ago, two meetings—which are just the beginning of a busy day for Foreign Minister David Levi—ended here. Levi will also meet with Thierry de Beauce, the French deputy foreign minister for cultural affairs, and with a German delegation of SPD [Social Democratic Party] members, among others.

Yet the central issue that interests us today is whether Foreign Minister David Levi and his German counterpart, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, have reached an agreement regarding the supply of German Patriot missiles, including their teams, to Israel. We asked the foreign minister this question. Here is his reply:

[Begin Levi recording] As Genscher said, we discussed issues that are vital to Israel. We reached agreements based on their desire to assist Israel with vital issues and with the supply of specific items.

As for the Patriot, I would like to point out that the issue is not one of German teams; this was not discussed. However, because the weapon is essential to Israel and contributes most significantly to Israel's security and morale, we discussed the subject and will continue the discussion in the future. Germany's positive approach is characterized by a desire to help Israel. [end recording]

A summary of what we have heard: Israel and Germany are merely in touch with regard to the transfer of German Patriot batteries to Israel, but there is absolutely no talk of sending in German teams to defend Israel's skies.

As for Minister Levi's meetings: The French deputy minister has brought a message of friendship and esteem from President Mitterrand to the people of Israel. In addition, in the wake of the fierce Israeli criticism of their attitude, the French point out: We have never supported linkage [preceding word in English] between the Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but we do believe that the Palestinian problem should be resolved by giving the Palestinians the right of self-determination.

We heard Foreign Minister David Levi address the recent wave of sympathy flooding Israel:

[Begin Levi recording] They now see that Israel is facing a grave danger, that it was right, and, at the same time, that Israel is strong as far as its conduct, decisions, restraint, and deliberation are concerned. The arrival of heads of state and their siding with us should serve us as a lever for the future, which is what I am trying to do. [end recording]

An interim summary: The entire world is with us; everyone wants to express support and supply us with everything possible. Delegation after delegation arrives in Israel with the sole purpose of expressing support. These are the details from the Foreign Ministry for the moment.

### More Patriots To Be Delivered

*TA2501110391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Excerpt] More Patriot batteries will be received soon from Germany. This was announced at this morning's joint news conference held by the German and Israeli foreign ministers, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and David Levi.

Last night it was learned that four Patriot batteries received last week from the United States are already operational and that additional Patriot batteries will arrive soon from the United States.

The German foreign minister is winding up his visit here. [passage omitted]

### Discusses European Stand With Shamir

*TA2501111591 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1035 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's meeting with Hans-Dietrich Genscher has ended, and our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

Good day from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. Indeed, the meeting ended about 30 minutes ago. As usual, Genscher refused to speak with the waiting reporters, but we do have a few details of the remarks he made in the meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Genscher said: We are ashamed of the fact that because of a number of German companies, Saddam Husayn now has powerful destructive weapons, and we feel anger and bitterness toward these companies. He added: Feelings of shock and hurt at the attack on Israel are prevalent in Germany.

As for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks, he began with an expression of appreciation for Genscher's decision to come to Israel to express solidarity. The prime minister further said that although Israel is very pleased with the U.S. stand in the conflict, it does not always find the same degree of determination among the European countries. In this context, he mentioned his concern over the French initiative, which aimed to create a linkage [preceding word in English] or, as the prime minister phrased it, to placate Saddam. We were surprised to see Germany supporting this stand, because we expected more of it, said the prime minister.

More accusations against Germany were voiced. The prime minister mentioned the problem of German scientists who are developing lethal weapons in Iraq and Libya. He added: If the German Government opposes these activities, it should do all it can to put an end to them.

Foreign Minister Genscher, who is accustomed to coming under attack from his Israeli hosts, had his answers ready. He said: Our entire purpose in supporting the French initiative was to prove that Saddam will accept no compromise. What they in fact wanted to do was to prove that Saddam is not interested in solving the Palestinian problem and that he is concerned with his goals only. The Germans believe they have proven this.

As for the involvement of German companies and individuals in lethal arms industries, Genscher said: Germany intends to take firm legal steps against all those bodies in order to prevent any such activity in the future.

At the end of the meeting, the prime minister noted that Israel will want to promote the peace process after the Gulf crisis is resolved and that this will be done through negotiations with its neighbors. Both Israel's friends and enemies should know, however, that we will firmly oppose any attempt to convene an international conference and to coerce Israel into a solution.

The issue of Patriot missiles which Germany has offered to Israel was not raised, as far as is known, in this meeting—at least not in the part that was held in a broad forum. The meeting began with a short private meeting between the two men, and it is possible the issue was raised then.

### Patriot Batteries Expected To Remain After War

*TA2501101991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jan 91 p A1*

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] As a reward for the restraint the Israeli Government showed last week following the missile attack on Ramat Gan, the Americans have expressed readiness to tighten cooperation with Israel on various issues.

The Americans will supply Israel with additional Patriot missile batteries, and Jerusalem expects those batteries to remain in Israel after the war in the Gulf ends. [passage omitted]

### EC Revokes All Sanctions Against Israel

*TA2501101691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Text] The EC has decided to revoke all the sanctions it had imposed on Israel. An announcement to this effect was relayed by EEC Commissioner Abel Matutes to Foreign Minister David Levi.

Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports that with the revocation of the sanctions, scientific cooperation between Israel and the EC countries will resume at once. Discussions on cooperation toward the unification of Europe will be also renewed.

### Joint U.S.-Israeli Air Teams To Be Established

*TA2501053291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Text] According to the French newspaper LE MONDE, the United States and Israel are likely to set up joint air teams that would fly in American planes to destroy the Iraqi Scud missile batteries. LE MONDE says its information is based on intelligence sources from the allied countries.

### Arens Praises U.S. Efforts, Discusses Patriots

*TA2401185991 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1815 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Report by military correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] We will not do anything under the influence of events. If attacked we will respond, and we were attacked. We will act wisely and we will do what is right for Israel's interests in the short and long run, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said.

[Begin Arens recording] It is obvious to us that a massive use of aerial force is being implemented. It is the highest concentration of air power the world has ever seen, even in World War II, and certainly in a single area, and I have no doubt that force is bringing and will bring significant results. I believe that the number of missiles fired at Israel is smaller than Saddam Husayn would like because of the intensive day and night activity of the U.S. Air Force in west Iraq. [end recording]

Nevertheless, Minister Arens said, Saddam Husayn still has the same ground forces he had before the war.

[Begin Arens recording] The number of aircraft smashed, we know from official U.S. announcements, is now about 30, I believe. We know that Iraqi fighter planes number in the hundreds, over 500, and there are those who believe even over 600. It is, therefore, obvious that most of that force has not yet been crushed. [end recording]

We have concluded a week of a different type of war. We had months in which to prepare mentally, physically, and militarily. There have been no surprises and I do not feel there has been any damage to Israel's deterrent capability, Arens said.

[Begin Arens recording] I do not believe it is a war that will take years, although the war between Iran and Iraq lasted eight years. I do not think it will last years; I believe that the force confronting Saddam Husayn is very large and in the end will vanquish him. What will happen afterward? The only thing I am prepared to say is—perhaps it is wishful thinking, but it looks logical to me—that there will be in the world, in particular in the United States, much greater awareness of the conditions existing in the Middle East, and the dangers threatening the State of Israel than existed before 2 August. [end recording]

There are reports about chemical warheads on their missiles. These reports cannot be completely verified, Minister Arens said. He disclosed that beginning tonight the fourth Patriot battery would be operational. That is an important addition, but the Patriot does not provide total immunity against Iraqi missiles.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT 24 January reports that "from tonight an Israel Air Force team will take over command and operation of its second Patriot missile battery. Other Patriot batteries continue to be operated by American crews while the Israelis continue their on-the-job training."]

### Moda'i Denies Submitting Aid Request to U.S.

*TA2401224291 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2200 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Israel has not yet submitted any formal request for aid to the United States, Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, who is currently in New York, told our U.S. correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

[Begin Moda'i recording] Israel has not submitted any official requests. In the talks with the deputy secretary of state and at his request, we provided him with a few figures. Allow me to explain the figures: The first figure, $3 billion, is not only the sum of the losses sustained by Israel's economy, but also includes direct military expenditures. As is known, we have been very active in this sphere, even if at this point these activities are not reflected in any belligerent action. It is a question of $3 billion in expenditures if this type of belligerent action continues for about a month, and nobody knows whether it will last a month, half a month or, God forbid, even longer. [end recording]

### Arens Sees Deterrent Capability Unimpaired

*TA2401174391 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that Israel's deterrent capability has not been impaired in any way. In a briefing to military correspondents, the defense minister said that Israel would make every effort to act wisely and do what is right for its security interests. He expressed the hope that the Gulf war would not last longer than two months. It is possible that Israel will no longer be a part of the cycle of danger—before even two months are up, he added.

Right now the defense minister is about to address the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports from there:

The meeting at the Defense Ministry ended a few minutes ago and the remarks uttered by the defense minister—worthy of special attention—are that Israel is at war. Israel was attacked and is, therefore, at war. It is a completely different kind of war, however, because the enemy is far away; to reach him we have to cross a third country, something that influences our decisionmaking. That was a summing up of the defense minister's remarks during the meeting. [passage omitted]

### Sources Evaluate Course of Gulf War

*TA2401155691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1330 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Amir Fink]

[Text] There is no doubt, Israeli sources say today, that Saddam Husayn has hundreds of Scud missiles. The reason that only one missile was fired in each of the last two attacks was tactical. The goal may be to avoid revealing the missile launchers for a long period, or Saddam may have simply reached the conclusion that one missile suffices to achieve a significant effect in Israel.

The sources said that Saddam Husayn has many launchers left—both mobile and stationary—and that the time it takes to prepare the surface-to-surface missiles for launching has apparently been greatly shortened.

Most of the missiles fired at Israel were launched from mobile launchers, but some were also sent from stationary launchers in western Iraq.

As for the battle picture in the Gulf as seen through Israeli eyes, the Iraqi Army has still not lost control over its troops. The Americans have still not managed to disrupt Iraqi command and control systems completely. Saddam Husayn has realized that there is no point in going on the attack against the U.S. forces during the first days of the war. The Iraqi Army's working assumption is that there is no point in revealing your capabilities. The Iraqis believe that their Army will be able to weather the aerial onslaught and absorb the punishment. Afterward, when the ground fighting begins, Baghdad feels that it will be able to confront the U.S. forces, to cause them many casualities and drag out the war, hoping that the impact of the pressure groups in the United States will eventually bring about a cease-fire.

Israeli sources are of the opinion that if the war's end finds Saddam Husayn with 100,000 dead troops after withdrawing 80 km from Kuwait, he will still consider it a great victory. The sources said that the Iraqis cannot be defeated without ground fighting. Up to this morning the Iraqi Air Force had lost between 30 and 33 planes—half of them hit on the ground. An important element in the losses: 10 MiG-29's out of the 40 that were in Iraq's possession. The Americans are concentrating on bombing and paralyzing Iraqi airfields. The U.S. forces are also investing efforts in the area of the H-2 and H-3 airfields; however, one must remember that the diameter of this region is the distance between Haifa and Beersheva.

As for the Kuwait front, only small numbers of mobile launchers were hit. Israel says that it appears that the Iraqis have been reacting to the statements made by General Schwarzkopf. Right after he announced that there were only four mobile launchers left in the Kuwait area, the Iraqis shot seven Scuds from the same sector. The Iraqis are also trying to fool Israel: They launched missiles on Saturday morning and have been targeting Haifa and Tel Aviv on an alternate basis. The Israeli sources asserted that the carpet bombing raids that the Americans have been conducting on the Republican Guard units in Kuwait have caused only limited damage. The goals have not yet been accomplished. There has been no mass desertion or demoralization in the Iraqi Army, and when the Iraqis have an opportunity they launch artillery fire at the U.S. forces. The estimate in Israel is that the U.S. ground attack will begin in early February. The United States has also decided to cut back on media coverage in the Gulf. The Americans have hit strategic Iraqi targets such as the presidential palace, the Defense Ministry, the Parliament, the Air Force headquarters, the oil refineries serving Baghdad, the chemical weapons factory in Samarra', and a biological weapons plant. Israeli sources assert, however, that the chemical and biological threat should still not be discounted. Another fact worth mentioning is the Iraqis' ability to repair airfields and runways very rapidly and their attempt to trick the U.S. pilots coming to bomb the runways. They paint things similar to black roses on the runway in order to create the impression that they were already bombed in previous raids. The sources say that the Iraqis miscalculated one thing: in estimating that their missile barrages on Israel would lead to an immediate Israeli reaction that would involve Jordan in the war. The Iraqi failure is in the fact that Israel is not involved in the war. The sources stressed that Saddam Husayn considers the Jordanian Army his army at the front with Israel.

### IDF Spokesman Explains Reason for False Alarm

*TA2401211891 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2100 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] A false alarm was sounded about 30 minutes ago throughout Israel, and the all-clear siren was sounded a few minutes later. People may leave the sealed rooms and remove their gas masks.

Israeli Army spokesman Nahman Shay said that the siren was sounded because of a warning about missiles fired at Israel which proved to have been false. No missiles were fired and, to repeat, it was a false alarm.

### Soviets Deny Military Advisers Aiding Iraqi Army

*TA2401212291 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] The Soviet Union has once more denied that its advisers are continuing to aid the Iraqi Army. Aleksandr (Denisov), the spokesman for the Soviet legation at the United Nations, told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that his country no longer has any military experts in Iraq and that only 43 embassy employees still remain there.

Our correspondent pointed out that it was reported in London today that up to 1,000 Soviet experts are still advising the Iraqi Army.

### High Schools To Reopen 27 Jan

*TA2401163491 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Studies in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades in high schools throughout the country will resume on Sunday. Our education affairs correspondent Nava Kohen reports that this was done in consultation with the education minister, the prime minister, the defense minister, and the mayors of large towns. The Education Ministry's emergency headquarters will ask for education, organizational, and security instructions for school principals on the reopening of the schools.

### Studies Resume in Adult Schools 24 Jan

*TA2301152391 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Jan 91*

[Text] Classes will resume tomorrow morning in Hebrew schools for adults, the regional colleges, teachers' colleges and seminars, and the pre-academic schools. This was decided today in a meeting between Education Minister Zvulun Hammer and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and in agreement with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. This was reported by our education correspondent Nava Kohen.

### Curfews Lifted in Territories 22 Jan

*TA2301171891 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 23 Jan 91 p 17*

[Report by Shraga Zeiger and ITIM]

[Text] Yesterday the police lifted the curfews imposed on the East Jerusalem neighborhoods of Silwan, Shu'fat, and al-Tur. The curfews were imposed on 17 January after riots broke out there at the beginning of the Gulf war. In the five days of curfew, several people suspected of breaking it were detained, but on the whole, quiet has been maintained.

The curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip has entered its seventh day. Yesterday morning the curfews imposed on the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza and the Jabalyah refugee camp were lifted for a few hours to allow the residents to obtain food. Palestinian sources have noted that despite the fact that curfews are being lifted, they have created difficulties, mainly in getting medical assistance. It was also reported that in the past two weeks many parents have asked to name their children Saddam.

In the West Bank yesterday, curfews were lifted from Bethlehem, Janin, the refugee camps of al-Duhayshah, Ayda, and Nur-al-Shams, as well as from the villages of Si'ir, Shuwaykah, Idnah, Sammu', Yattah, Abu-Dis, al-Khidr, al-'Azariyah, Buruqin, Silat al-Zahr, and Ya'bad, to allow residents to obtain food. The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria yesterday continued distributing gas masks to the residents of Ramallah, Bethlehem, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah.

In the past few days the security forces have confiscated loudspeakers of mosques in the West Bank, where they were used to incite the residents to riot.

Some 500 residents of the territories who were stuck in Jordan when the war broke out are still waiting on the eastern side of the River Jordan, near the Damiyah and Allenby bridges, to be allowed to return home. Yesterday, the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria allowed several residents—women, children, elderly, and sick people—to cross over to the territories. Those who returned have said that there is an atmosphere of war in Jordan, and that the residents there have stocked up on food supplies. At the same time, they said, there is no feeling there that Jordan might start a war against Israel.

### Allegations of Abuses in Territories Rejected

*TA2501122091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jan 91 p A7*

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpts] The continued curfew in the territories is jeopardizing the lives and sources of income of some 1.7 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This is a claim made yesterday by the coordinating committee of nongovernmental international organizations operating in the territories. The committee is demanding that the curfews imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip be lifted immediately. It charges that in the past few days, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has been employing a policy of shooting without warning, extensive beatings, free use of tear gas grenades that are thrown into houses, arbitrary detentions, and heavy fines. The committee claims that three days ago, the IDF decided that the maximum punishment for anyone who violates a curfew will be a five-year prison term and a 30,000 shekel fine.

These remarks were made at a news conference the committee held yesterday at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem. The conference was attended by some 100 representatives of the international media who are presently in Israel to cover the Gulf crisis. The claims made there caused anger among Israeli elements, who described them as lies. [passage omitted]

Defense sources yesterday expressed anger at the sharp media attack leveled at Israel in the presence of dozens of foreign correspondents. The sources noted that the IDF and the Civil Administration have been taking special care to lift curfews to allow residents to obtain food. Various sectors such as lawyers, farmers, and wholesalers are allowed free movement during curfews. Furthermore, bakeries and pharmacies are allowed to remain open around the clock.

"The warehouses of the UN Relief and Works Agency are fully stocked, and there is no hunger anywhere," the sources said.

### King Telephones Syrian, Yemeni Leaders

*NC2501104791 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Text] Amman, 25 Jan (PETRA)—A telephone conversation took place yesterday evening between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic, during which they exchanged views on various aspects of the current situation in the region.

Another telephone conversation took place between his majesty and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, during which views were exchanged on the latest developments in the region.

### Baghdad Refugees Present 'Grim Account'

*JN2301102491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 91 p 3*

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—As the U.S.-led alliance bombed chemical plants and nuclear installations out of existence on the outskirts of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, no questions have been raised so far about the consequences of these "surgical" operations against "strategical sites."

While the two sides reported "few" civilian casualties neither environmentalists nor human rights activists, including Amnesty International, were on hand to file their respective reports.

As the "surgical strikes" continue, the possibilities of a "quick war" have already evaporated. U.S. Secretary of State Dick Cheney has admitted the Gulf war could last for weeks and maybe months.

The Iraqi capital has become a different place. The city is being denied water, electricity and petrol. People coming out of the city gave the Jordan Times a grim account of what life is like in the shell-shocked city.

Despite reports to the contrary, Baghdad is still full of people, says BBC television correspondent John Simpson, who left the city Jan. 21.

"While some people have left, most are still in the city," says Simpson who was the first European TV correspondent to enter Baghdad in August. "It seems to have been a conscious decision by both the residents and the government, who in fact did not encourage the residents to leave."

While the people have remained in the city, reports of increasingly "miserable living conditions" are on the rise.

Eyewitnesses report that as power was cut off a few hours after the allied shelling began, water ceased to run and all public works came to a standstill.

"Not one single electic light can be seen on the streets of Baghdad at night. Only the occasional car head lamps show signs of life," Simpson says.

While Simpson, who has spent most of the last five months in Baghdad, says there have been no signs of deliberate attacks on civilian targets, he says that a train full of civilians was reportedly hit.

"The strikes seem to concentrate on strategic sites and not civilian areas," Simpson says.

A long-term Jordanian resident of Baghdad does not believe that there had been precision in the bombing of Baghdad. "My house was bombed and I don't believe it is a strategic site," said Mahmud Karam.

Those few who have visited Iraqi hospitals say the hospitals' occupancy indicate that there were no more than "two dozen casualties for each night of bombing." Others say that injured could die very soon because of the lack of adequate medication.

"Before the war started there was a problem with medication. Patients could not be properly treated because of a lack of medicine. The situation now can only be worse," said a journalist who left Baghdad two days before the war began.

Those residents of Baghdad who had lived through the eight year Iran-Iraq war, have now "dug into" their bunkers once again to resist the evils that war brings.

While lack of food has not been reported by people fleeing Baghdad, incredible inflation is making many basic foodstaples practically unattainable.

"Children's milk is not cheap to come by," said a mother of two who returned to Amman two days after the war broke out. "There is lots of dates syrup, but you can't live on that alone," she complained.

"Wherever people reside there is an unmistakable smell," said Simpson who added that "Even in the hotels the hygienic condition are deteriorating quickly."

The diseases caused by a lack of sanitation are likely to spread if the situation continued for long, said a Jordanian doctor who kept following the situation in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities currently under fire.

Despite the clause in the U.N.-sponsored embargo on Iraq that excludes medication, Iraq has in fact been denied medication for the las five months.

Despite the evident hardship, Arabs returning from Baghdad say the Iraqi morale is relatively high and both Arabs and Westerners agree that the first missile attack on Tel Aviv was the greatest moment of relief for the Iraqis since the war broke out.

"As they sat in their bomb shelters they heard the news... Tel Aviv was hit by Iraqi missiles and yodelling could be heard from bunker to bunker," reported a 44-year-old Jordanian returning from Baghdad Sunday night.

"It seemed to give Iraqis the impression that some good would come out of this conflict... their greatest enemy had been hit and that in itself was an accomplishment," one Western journalist told the Jordan Times. He said that Iraqis considered Israel and not the U.S.-led alliance to be the greater of the two evils. "There is no doubt in my mind that Iraqis hold Israel directly responsible for the war."

### Describe 'Dangerous' Situation

*LD2301210891 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 Jan 91*

[Text] Jordan is now receiving refugees. The United Nations believes that this war will create no less than 1.5 million refugees from the whole of the Gulf and Middle East region, but as yet the flow is limited, and can be absorbed by the Amman authorities. RNE's special correspondent Frank Sevilla today visited the camps housing those fleeing from the war:

[Sevilla] The wave of refugees who were expected to leave Iraq through Jordan has still not materialized, and barely 2,000 people arrive daily at the al-Ruwayshid camp on the Jordanian border. In contrast to the avalanche which took place last August, the refugee camp seems semideserted, with most of its tents empty, awaiting those who have not yet decided to leave Iraq. Those who have left attribute the delay of other potential refugees to the dangerous nature of the journey from Baghdad to the Jordanian frontier, with continual bombardments by allied aircraft of installations close to the road, and the difficulty in finding a truck or bus willing to make the trip:

[Begin recording of unidentified voice in English fading into Spanish translation] It is all very dangerous. You cannot go on to the roads, either at night or at midday; there is no possibility of this. [end recording]

[Sevilla] Although some of those in al-Ruwayshid speak of normality in Baghdad, the majority say that the Iraqi capital is being subjected to constant bombing, and the people are afraid. According to these accounts, numerous buildings have been destroyed, and some people say that they have seen dead bodies:

[Begin recording of unidentified voice in English fading into Spanish translation] I have seen many dead. In Falujah a bomb had fallen on the post office—I saw five Iraqis dead there, and there were many injured. What is happening is very dangerous. [end recording]

[Sevilla] Many residents of Baghdad spend the day in the air raid shelters, not daring to leave, while the children shout and cry. Those who have second homes have sought to leave the Iraqi capital, but the poorest have no option but to wait in their shelters. According to these accounts, the people are trying to survive, although you can scarcely find food and water, and the situation is very delicate:

[Begin recording of unidentified voice in English fading into Spanish translation] The situation in Baghdad is very bad now. There is nothing, nothing to eat, no water or electricity. We have not been able to eat in Baghdad for three days, because the Iraqis have closed the stores—everything is closed. [end recording]

### Syrian Social Nationalist Party Supports Iraq

*JN2401113691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Jan 91 p 13*

["Exclusive"]

[Text] The Syrian Social Nationalist Party (Jordan and Palestine legation) has issued a statement condemning the fierce hostile onslaught against the Iraqi people and their cultural capabilities. The statement said the current onslaught is an extension of the Zionist Jewish onslaught and the destructive crusade attacks which were launched for the purpose of undermining the existence and civilization of this nation. The statement added that the hostile onslaught is not aimed only at Iraq but the entire nation with a view to consecrating division, subservience, and colonialism.

In its statement, the party emphasized its determination to reply to this aggressive imperialist onslaught by employing all the powers and capabilities that incorporate the values of free and dignified life. It also emphasized its determination to fight against the barbaric invaders and defeat aggression and aggressors. The party called on the nation to demonstrate militant cohesion in order to erect the lofty edifice of renaissance for our glorious nation.

### Islamic Party Spokesman Arrested for Jihad Call

*NC2401154791 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Amman, Jan 24 (AFP)—The spokesman for a radical Islamic party was arrested Thursday after he called for attacks on Western interests here as reprisals for the U.S.-led attack on Iraq, party sources said.

They said Jordanian security forces arrested 'Ata Abu-al-Rashtah, spokesman for the Islamic Liberation [al-Tahrir] Party, shortly after he launched his appeal at a news conference.

Mr. Abu-al-Rashtah urged the Arab and Islamic faithful to wage a "holy war" and "strike at the interests" of member countries of the multinational coalition battling to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

He called for action in Arab and Islamic countries, including Jordan, and said his party was lobbying leaders within the Moslem world to support Iraq militarily against the "new crusaders on the Arabian peninsula" and the Israelis in occupied Palestine.

But Mr. Abu-al-Rashtah stressed that he was not trying to stir up action against foreign residents who "are not responsible for the policies of their governments."

Created in 1953 in Jerusalem, the Islamic Liberation Party was dismantled in the 1960s but resurfaced in April of last year when it distributed tracts protesting the arrest of eight of its members.

The party believes only in the Koran and Islamic law, a position Mr. Abu-al-Rashtah said had disqualified the group from taking part in a royal commission to draft a national charter on political activity.

## Mufti Voices Support for Iraq, Urges Jihad

*JN2401132091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic*
*23 Jan 91 p 6*

[By 'Isam Qadamani]

[Text] Jordan's Mufti His Eminence Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Khatib al-Tamimi has affirmed that the aggression being carried out by the forces of infidelity against Arab Muslim Iraq is a link in the chain of rancorous Zionist-Crusader-Jewish hostility.

In an exclusive and comprehensive statement to AL-RA'Y yesterday, his eminence attacked all religious edicts [fatawi] permitting this criminal colonialist onslaught. He said that all religious edicts issued merely reverse facts and distort the words of God and God's messenger, peace be upon him, and the teachings of true religion. His eminence also analyzed the history and dimensions of the crisis and its impact on the nation.

He said that these decisive moments are sounding the alarm and that the hour of jihad [struggle] has come—a jihad which God has ordered Muslims to launch to confront the enemies.

Regarding the historical aspects of the crisis, his eminence said: He who reads the Koran will not be surprised by the unification of the forces of infidelity and error to deal a blow to the Iraqi people because any blow to the Muslim Iraqi people is, in fact, a blow to all Muslims everywhere in the world and the declaration of war against Iraq means war against all Muslims because the enmity of the infidels toward Muslims is historic and deep-rooted. These forces, he said, launched a series of wars against the Islamic nation and this war is a link in the chain of rancorous Crusader-Jewish hostility. Muslims, he said, will not forget what Judaism did, what the Tartars burned, or the Crusaders' crimes. He added that the Crusader-Zionist hostility was characterized by determination to deprive Muslims of their force, after they damaged their power at the beginning of the century, using ways that are devoid of ethics, humanitarianism, and conscience—ways which indicate the extent of their infidelity and grudge against the nation. And the unbelievers plotted and planned, and God also planned, and the best of planners is God [Koranic verse]

Asked what Muslims should do, his eminence said: At these decisive moments the alarm is sounding and the hour of jihad has come—a jihad which God urged Muslims to launch to confront the enemies with all their energies. Go ye forth, whether equipped lightly or heavily, and strive and struggle, with your goods and your persons, in the Cause of God. That is best for you, if ye but knew. [Koranic verse]. Hence jihad is a duty for every Muslim under these circumstance and the Koran is full of verses urging fighting, taking up arms, defying terror, and mobilizing energies to liberate the blessed land.

This is a golden opportunity for Muslims to wage an Islamic war and jihad against the forces of the Crusader-Zionist infidels to win the strength of this world and paradise in the hereafter. Is not the current war the hour of jihad that Muslims have been longing for? Is not jihad a way for Muslims to realize dignity, honorable life, and victory? His eminence added that the Islamic nation everywhere should realize that it cannot be defeated if it unifies itself and confronts the tyrants regardless of their forces, weapons, and equipment. If Muslims do not launch jihad now, they will regret it, miss the golden opportunity to win martyrdom, and will deeply regret not exploiting this opportunity because they know that the priority of the Western-Zionist plans is to strip every Muslim Arab country of its force, keep the Muslims humiliated, weak, and divided, and keep the hammer over their heads so that these forces can hit the Muslims each time they try to raise their heads.

His eminence denounced the enemy's justifications for its unjust attack on Iraq under the pretext of human rights, and said they use the human rights issue as they wish, although they have been the first to violate and trample human rights throughout their old and modern history. He wondered: Where is humanity when they commit their ugly crimes, killing innocent children, women and elderly in the occupied territories? Look at their crimes in Hiroshima, Vietnam, Panama, Palestine, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, and the whole world. The entire world, he added, knows that the international laws they are spreading are only ink on paper and that the prevailing law in the world under their leadership is the law of tyranny and the law of the jungle.

Regarding media reports on edicts and statements by men of religion permitting the fierce onslaught against Iraq, he said that all edicts permitting this criminal colonialist onslaught are merely a reversal of facts and a distortion of the words of God and His messenger, peace be upon him, and of the teachings of true religion. How can a Muslim believe that true religion permits infidels and Muslims to join their efforts to launch ground, sea, and air attacks on the Muslim Iraqi Arab people with all their machines of war and destruction?

He added: How can a Muslim imagine that true religion permits infidels and rancorous people to colonize the countries of the Arabs and Muslims and impose their hegemony over the Islamic countries' energies in order

to exploit and plunder them? What is the attitude of those who have issued edicts permitting the United States and the Western states to join and command their forces in the same trench after the goals of the colonialist forces have been exposed; namely, to deal a blow to Muslims and allow Israel to enter into the Western alliance—may God destroy it—as a principal party?

## Editorial Criticizes Soviet Position on Gulf War

*JN2401135291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Jan 91 pp 1, 14*

[Editorial: "False Soviet Concern"]

[Text] Despite his numerous internal preoccupations, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev found ample time to voice his concern on the volatile situation developing in the Gulf and to warn against a serious military escalation. This leader, who enjoys American satisfaction and support, did not forget to hold Iraq responsible for the present situation.

In fact, there is nothing new in this Soviet position, which seems to be another link in a long chain of Soviet positions and statements which have always supported the West and sought to evoke its sympathy, not to mention its emergency food aid.

What draws attention in Gorbachev's recent statement is the Soviet leader's false concern about war developments and his gratuitous call for exerting special efforts to prevent the escalation of war and the expansion of its zone. Had this Soviet call not been devious, if not deceptive, we would have seen Moscow exerting efforts for a Security Council session that would be held not to direct blame or accusations at others, but to impose a cease-fire that would give time for diplomacy and prepare the climate for peace talks between the warring parties.

However, the past bitter experience with the Soviet diplomacy under the administration of Shevardnadze and his successor, does not encourage any of us to cherish such hopes and expectations, especially since the leader of the perestroyka seems to believe that the Iraqi aircraft and warships are the ones which are besieging America and dropping on it tens of thousands of bombs of death and destruction everyday.

The Arab nation, which is very displeased with the Soviet leadership's disavowal of its long historical friendship with the Arabs, will remember the positions and statements of all those who placed themselves and their country at the service of the American scheme to strike at sisterly Iraq and destroy the rising Islamic spirit of all Muslims in this large world.

## Bush Urged To Realize 'Facts of Battlefield'

*NC2401190591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jan 91 pp 1, 13*

[Editorial: "Bush Is Frustrated, and Peace Is His Only Refuge"]

[Text] Despite President Bush's frustration due to the failure and impotence of his forces and those of his allies to achieve their aggressive objectives against Iraq, he is still captive to his intransigence, conceit, and insistence on continuing this devastating war. His administration and that of his British ally, Major, rejected several calls to hold a UN Security Council meeting to discuss means of stopping this fatal war. The most recent of these calls was that of the Arab Maghreb Union. This proves Bush's insistence and that of his allies on continuing the war, no matter how its consequences would devastate the region and mankind. This is because President Bush is still haunted by a hysterical desire to destroy Iraq's power, and because he is still captive to his delusions of the possibility of achieving this desire.

Although his crazy air raids have crashed on the steadfastness, firmness, and impregnability of Iraq, he is still captive to his intransigence and insistence on achieving his aggressive objectives, caring less about the appeals and calls of the world public opinion, including U.S. public opinion itself. He had better fixed his eyes on the placards of the mammoth demonstrations and popular marches that are being staged in the American, European, and other world cities to go back on his crazy rashness regarding the escalation of war and to stop putting hundreds of thousands of his troops and those of his allies in its furnace.

President Bush has tried the capability of his forces and that of his allies over the past days. He must have noticed that these forces were unable to quench his thirst for destroying Iraq's force. The failure of all these fierce attacks and raids gave sufficient proof that these forces are unable to affect Iraq's power, the valiant Iraqi Army's determination, and Iraq's sophisticated weapons. Bush had better understand and comprehend the dimensions of the military situation after he failed to understand the political situation, especially since it has become clear to everyone, and after his chief of staff and that of his allies have admitted that Iraq is strong and impregnable, and that destroying its force is almost impossible. We believe that the admission of his ally, France, that Iraq is capable of containing and crushing any ground aggression against its territory is sufficient to force him to reconsider his calculations and to relinquish his delusions and dreams of making any military achievement to save his face.

It seems that Bush has no way out of his difficult impasse except to resort to reason and to recognize the facts of the battlefield, and consequently to resort to the peace option as the only refuge to save what has remained of the dignity of his country and that of his allies before

they become second-class states, or even less than this. Of course, peace must be just and comprehensive and to all the region's issues.

## Iraq Said Fighting for All Oppressed by U.S.

*JN2401110791 Amman THE STAR in English 24 Jan 91 p 6*

["Our Say" column: "America's Dirty War"]

[Text] The barbaric aggression being waged against Iraq under the pretext of international law and UN resolutions is but a solid proof of the true and clear objectives of the United States in the region. For one week now, America and its allies have been carrying out one of the most brutal aerial bombardments of cities and towns since World War II. The crusade, code-named Operation Desert Storm, is a flagrant violation of UN principles and travesty of international law. The declared aim, the liberation of Kuwait, has now transformed into the dismantling of Iraq, the massacre of its people and the destruction of all of its economic and military potential. The United States has surpassed itself this time in promoting aggression and subjugating defiant people.

The irony lies in the fact that the United States has managed to purchase allies, now numbering 28 Arab, Western, African, Asian and even South American countries, to give this ugly crusade international legitimacy.

All pre-war talk about seeking a peaceful solution, serving international consensus and abiding by international law, was but an excuse to deceive American public opinion into believing that their sons and daughters will die for a good cause. The truth of the matter will be disappointing to the American people. Their sons and daughters will die fighting an Arab nation that has the right to defend itself against this hideous aggression.

America has miscalculated its moves. It has forgotten the bitter lessons of Vietnam. It is sad that many people will die before America realizes that it trapped itself into a guagmire of enmity and hatred.

This war, terrible as it will be, will change the course of history. One only has to look at the massive public support Iraq enjoys in virtually all Muslim and Arab countries. Never before in modern history have Muslims from all walks of life responded simultaneously and passionately to an open aggression against a brotherly country. This miscalculation on the part of the United States, has already become visible.

Iraq is not alone in its fight. The issue now transcends the occupation of Kuwait, which should have been left to the Arabs to solve amongst themselves. Iraq's heroic resistance to the savage and inhuman onslaught against it has awakened Arabs and Muslims to the true objectives of the allies.

The world has suffered enough under the double standard rule of the West. The occupation of Kuwait should have been left to diplomats and politicians to solve, not armies. The United States had violated the sanctity of the United Nations and rendered it useless in handling its global responsibilities.

Iraq will win the war against the United States, not because it has managed to hide its Scud missiles or protect its aircraft from indiscriminate shelling. No. It will defeat the aggressors because Iraq's cause is just and because Iraq is fighting a war on behalf of all those who were oppressed by the United States and its satellites. we were not astonished to see waves of angry demonstrators in Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, Yemen, Jordan, Iran, Lebanon and even in Egypt. We were not surprised to hear that Americans are being threatened in Manila, Bangkok, Karachi, Istanbul and other major cities of the world. We are simply sick and tired of America's attempts to police the world and dictate its will upon nations.

The American people are not being told the truth about their country's true objectives in this region. Their sons and daughters, as well as our brothers and sisters, will not die for the issue of reinstating Shaykh Jabir. Americans will sacrifice their lives attempting to subjugate Iraq. The Iraqis will die defending their land. They will not be alone, for soon millions of their brothers will join in.

### Fadlallah: Muslims Will Respond to Saddam Call

*NC2401072791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah's spiritual guide, has stated that Muslims will respond to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's call for a jihad against the coalition led by the United States, even though Saddam does not have the right to make such a call.

### Hizballah: Israel May Use Gulf War To Attack

*LD2301115591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 91*

[Text] Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah Movement Political Bureau members met with a delegation from the Jamiyat-e Eslami [Islamic Association] and representatives of the muslim 'Ulema Assembly of Lebanon to discuss the latest political developments in that country and the Persian Gulf.

The Central News Unit in Beirut reports that the participants condemned U.S. and allied aggression in the region and declared that this aggression reflects U.S. aspirations to dominate the Persian Gulf and the region. They also warned that the Zionist regime may exploit the situation in the Persian Gulf to attack Lebanon and stressed the need to be prepared for any kind of Zionist aggression.

The participants condemned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and reiterated that the U.S. objective in starting the war is not the liberation of Kuwait but to establish hegemony in the region and plunder the wealth of the Muslim people.

### Hubayqah on Saudi Ties, Internal Developments

#### Part I of Interview

*PM1701154591 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 15 Jan 91 p 10*

[Part I of interview with Minister of State Elie Hubayqah in Beirut by Faysal Qawwas; date not given: "Kingdom's Support for Lebanon Continuing"]

[Excerpts] [Qawwas] As an official, how do you view relations between the Kingdom and Lebanon?

[Hubayqah] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, especially King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has played a major role in securing what has been achieved in Lebanon. Since the events began, and even before, the Kingdom has continued to provide every support and help politically, morally, and materially. That has boosted morale among people and enhanced Arab solidarity led by the Kingdom, despite the regrettable circumstances experienced by the Gulf in particular and the Arab states in general.

Lebanon relies substantially on the Kingdom's aid and the sincere efforts exerted by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to end our crisis, which has continued for over 15 years. [passage omitted]

[Qawwas] How do you think the critical situation in the Gulf can be resolved? How can the situation be resolved at the Lebanese level?

[Hubayqah] I do not know whether there are still any prospects for that. Lebanon is a country which has just started to recover from its wounds and thus cannot take any position other than that agreed on by all the Arabs. It has announced this on many occasions. Even the present government has issued a ministerial statement declaring its commitment to the Arab League resolutions. [passage omitted]

[Qawwas] How do you view the continuation of Israeli attacks on Lebanon at this particular time?

[Hubayqah] The Israelis are not spectators, nor do they harbor love or sympathy toward the Arabs in general. Israel is very annoyed by the steps taken to end the war in Lebanon, the steps which are the outcome of the al-Ta'if accords. It is annoyed at the possibility of establishing peace and ending its influence in Lebanon, whether through the abolition of the militias, the Lebanese Army's deployment in the South, or the opening up of the question of the South in connection with the implementation of Resolution 425.

Israeli military attacks on villages and encroachment on Lebanese territory are the result of its failure to bring about a fundamental change from within or through the forces which influence it internally. [passage omitted]

#### Part II

*PM1801100991 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 16 Jan 91 p 9*

[Part II of interview with Minister of State Elie Hubayqah by Faysal Qawwas in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Qawwas] In your view, is it possible to resolve the contradictions of 30 ministers each representing a political line different from the others and who fought one another militarily in the past?

[Hubayqah] In reality there are not 30 ministers in the cabinet. There are actually three inclinations or lines, not 30 ministers. There is a group of 15 ministers, perhaps more, belonging to the line of change; another group belonging to the Lebanese tradition; and a third group, the smallest in number, comprising Minister Dr. George Sa'adah and Minister Dr. Samir Ja'ja', who both belong to a known establishment, namely the Phalangists, composed of a military wing represented by the Lebanese Forces and a political wing represented by the Phalangist Party. So it is correct to say that the government comprises 30 ministers because it does include 30 ministers,

but in reality there are three political groups, each of which is represented by a number of ministers.

[Qawwas] Do you believe that the political rebellion can be suppressed just as the military rebellion was?

[Hubayqah] I hope that the rebellion will remain a political one, but I do not want to be pessimistic and give an opinion before matters are discussed. This government's task is to establish peace, and this can be achieved by several means. But there is a means or plan that must be implemented, that is, the abolition of the militias.

The abolition of the militias means the abolition of the military power of several Lebanese groups as well as the endorsement of the state's monopoly of military, security, and judicial authority. So if such a decision is rebelled against, such a rebellion will not be political but military, because the capabilities confronting that decision are not parliamentary, unionist, or social but purely military capabilities, comprising military forces and military equipment.

So would the government in such a case decide to end the military rebellion militarily or diplomatically? That would be for the government to decide. I pray to God that we will not reach the stage of military conflict. [passage omitted]

[Qawwas] The Lebanese Forces announced that they would not recognize any decision issued by the government because it was not formed on the basis of national accord—that is, in the Forces' view.

[Hubayqah] The government gained the Chamber of Deputies' confidence, regardless of the deputies' views of the government. The deputies voted on confidence. Democratic opposition requires that oppositionists be able to express their views, whether through the Chamber of Deputies or by any political party action.

And now that the government has gained confidence, any opposition to it becomes a rebellion, not democratic opposition. [passage omitted]

[Qawwas] Do you believe that Minister Sa'adah will join the government later?

[Hubayqah] Minister Sa'adah announced—whispering, unofficially—that he intends to join the government but that pressure is being exerted on him. And, regrettably, this is one of the results of the war in Lebanon: a militia group exerting pressure on a political group to change its convictions or to force it to follow a certain line. The Lebanese state and government must stop a militia or political group from exerting pressure on another group by military force or by threats to force the latter to take a position that suits it. [passage omitted]

## New Kuwaiti Envoy Presents Credentials

*NC2401220591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwait's new ambassador to Lebanon, has presented a copy of his credentials to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. After the meeting, the Kuwaiti ambassador said that Kuwait will be liberated very soon, adding: We will be in Kuwait City in a matter of days.

### Minister Affirms Right To Defend Airspace

*NC2401221791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman says that since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Syria has been aware of the big dangers resulting from the invasion, including a military conflagration. It is difficult for the international community to accept invasion and the destruction of a country. Moreover, this creates serious regional situations. In an interview with VOA today, the information minister added: Syria made big efforts to convince the Iraqi Government to comply with the Arab summit and Security Council resolutions calling for withdrawal from Kuwait in order to remove the causes of a conflagration that will be painful and difficult for Iraq and the entire egion. This is what actually happened.

Asked about Syria's response if Israel crosses Syrian airspace to attack Iraq, Salman said: Syria's airspace is not vulnerable; Syria can respond to anyone who wants to infiltrate its airspace.

On the linkage between Kuwait and the Palestine question, the minister said: These issues should not be linked at all. The Palestine question should be discussed through an international conference apart from other problems and issues, because there is no link between them at all. This is what we have said since the beginning and this is what we always say and reiterate.

The information minister added: We all know that the Palestine question is a pan-Arab issue. No one has the right to make a unilateral decision on this issue. Therefore, when the Arab-Isareli conflict is discussed, no country has the right to deal unilaterally with this pan-Arab issue.

Salman said: If the Iraqi Government is really earnest about liberating Palestine, it should have avoided the invasion of Kuwait in the first place and should have worked hard to contribute to the efforts to remove all Arab differences and achieve effective Arab solidarity to adopt a unified decision to liberate Palestine.

Concluding his statement, the information minister declared that the liberation of Palestine cannot be achieved through the invasion of Kuwait, the undermining of the State of Kuwait, and the eviction of its people.

### Denies Alliance Against Iraq

*NC2401223891 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jan (SANA)—Information Minister Muhammad Salman said in an interview with the Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus that Syria had hoped the Iraqi Government would spare the Gulf region a war and withdraw from Kuwait. We are still asking the Iraqi Government to stop this war, which is painful and harmful to all Arabs.

He declared that the decision about the Arab-Israeli struggle is an Arab decision and no Arab country can take single-handed action on this pan-Arab cause. If the Iraqi Government had been serious about playing a role in the Arab-Israeli struggle, it should not have invaded Kuwait and should have helped in the efforts to eliminate inter-Arab disputes to attain Arab solidarity.

He added: The psychological and material repercussions of the war are being felt in the whole Arab nation. Syria, being a part of this nation, therefore made every honest effort to prevent the war and convince the Iraqi Government to withdraw from Kuwait. Unfortunately, it did not.

He stated that there is no alliance against Iraq. However, there is a [UN] Security Council resolution allowing the country suffering the aggression and other countries to work to end the aggression. The matter has nothing to do with an alliance; it has to do with the international community. If the Iraqi Government responded to the international community's will, it could put an end to this situation. Syria is committed to the Arab summit and UN resolutions. It declared its rejection of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait from the very beginning.

In conclusion, the information minister said that everyone knows Israel is in a state of war with the Arab nation; it is an aggressor occupying Arab lands and it has no right to find pretexts in anything.

### Jordan's Husayn Telephones Al-Asad on Situation

*NC2401190791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jan (SANA)—His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad tonight. They discussed the situation in the region and bilateral affairs.

### Khaddam Says Iranian, Syrian Views on Gulf 'Identical'

*NC2401165391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus this afternoon accompanied by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' after a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. They participated in the Syria-Iran Joint Higher Committee meetings.

Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani received at 0900 today Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, in the presence of Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi and the foreign ministers of both countries, Faruq al-Shar' and 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Mr. Khaddam conveyed a message to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani from President al-Asad, and was asked to convey a response to the president. During the meeting, they exchanged views, which were identical, and discussed the situation in the Gulf.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam left Tehran at noon today with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Seeing him off at the airport were Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, several ranking officials in the Iranian Presidency and Foreign Ministry, and the Syrian ambassador in Tehran.

Mr. Khaddam made statements to reporters prior to his departure from Tehran, in which he expressed his satisfaction with the results of the talks he held in Tehran. He said: We discussed the various aspects of the Gulf crisis in light of the previous stands of both countries. Our viewpoints were identical. We reached the same results on the situation as a whole. Syria and Iran will continue to deal with the current events in accordance with a joint view. We also agreed to hold future meetings depending on the development of events in the region.

Dr. Habibi said that during the Syrian delegation's visit under Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, they discussed the situation in the Gulf. Views were identical on the need for the fighting to end and for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. They said Syria and Iran agree on the need to maintain the unity of Iraqi territory, respect international borders, and keep Iraq intact.

### Pakistani Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit

*NC2401135991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Excerpt] Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived in Damascus at 1115 today on an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at the airport by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus; and other officials. [passage omitted]

### Holds Talks With Al-Zu'bi

*NC2401181191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1230 today Pakistani Prime Minister Mohamed Nawaz Sharif. The meeting was attended by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; Nasir Qaddur, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs; and Pakistani ambassador in Damascus.

During this meeting, they discussed appropriate means to develop bilateral relations, the Gulf crisis, and current events in the region.

At 1300 today, the Syrian and Pakistani sides held an official round of talks under the chairmanship of Prime Minister al-Zu'bi and Pakistani Prime Minister Mohamed Nawaz Sharif attended by the members of the two delegations.

At the beginning of the session, Mr. al-Zu'bi welcomed Mr. Nawaz Sharif and the members of the Pakistani guest delegation. He stressed the strong ties of friendship which link the Syrian and Pakistani people, and the importance of developing these bilateral relations.

Mr. Sharif thanked him, affirming the historical friendly ties between Syria and Pakistan and the need to develop bilateral relations and strengthen bilateral cooperation in various fields. He also extended an official invitation to Mr. al-Zu'bi to visit Pakistan. Al-Zu'bi accepted the invitation gratefully and the date of the visit will be set sometime later.

During this session, they discussed topics dealing with developing cooperation between Syria and Pakistan and the steps that lead to bolstering the tasks of the higher Syrian-Pakistani joint committee for economic and technical cooperation.

Talks also dealt with the Gulf crisis and the importance of implementing resolutions of the emergency Arab summit and the [UN] Security Council in order to realize an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait as a means to solve this crisis and avert its destructive effects on the Iraqi people and the region.

Talks also dealt with the various aspects of the current situation in the region.

The talks were attended on the Syrian Arab side by Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Information Minister Muhammad Salman; Communications Minister Murad Quwwatli; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Matanyus Habib, minister of oil and mineral resources; Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; and several advisers and experts.

On the Pakistani side, the talks were attended by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; Communications Minister Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi; Abdul Majid Malik, minister of food and agriculture; Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, minister of petroleum and natural resources; and a number of experts and advisers.

### Meets With Al-Asad

*NC2401182091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jan (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1730 today Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; and the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus.

## Bangladesh

### Pro-Iraq Crowd Condemns Bush in 'Mock Trial'

*BK2401120891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1155 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 24 (AFP)—Thousands of Bangladeshis in a northeastern town held a mock trial and condemned U.S. President George Bush to death for starting the Gulf war, as students in Dhaka called for peace, reports said Thursday.

The Dhaka daily BANGLAR BANI said up to 5,000 people in the town of Ishwarganj took part in the mock trial Wednesday after which they pronounced Iraqi President Saddam Husayn a Moslem hero and carried a garlanded portrait of him through the streets expressing their support for Iraq.

The crowd held Mr. Bush responsible for waging the war by launching massive air strikes by the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf against targets in Iraq and Kuwait and hanged him in effigy after sentencing him to death during the trial.

Local officials in Ishwarganj, were unavailable for comment, but anti-U.S. protest marches and rallies have been reported almost daily in Dhaka and other cities over the Gulf where Bangladesh has some 400,000 expatriate nationals as well as 2,300 troops based in Saudi Arabia with the multinational force.

In Dhaka some 3,000 students, some as young as three-years-old, took to the streets Thursday to protest the war and called on the United Nations to end the conflict immediately.

They said Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait was definitely a "wrongful act," but war, which could destroy human civilisation, was not the answer.

They called on U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar to end the war "immediately" and settle all international disputes "permanently" by calling an international conference.

The conference would have to consider all justified demands of the countries involved.

Some of the placards they carried read: "The World for Men—not for Demon," "Want Food, Education, Not War" and "No War, Peace."

The Student Welfare Organisation, organisers of the demonstration, said students from 30 schools participated in the rally and peace march through major city streets.

Meanwhile, teachers and students at the Jahangirnagar University in nearby Savar sub-district, held a peace rally Thursday appealing to the world community to mobilise public opinion against the war and find means to immediately end it.

### Dhaka Protests Iraqi Involvement in Protests

*BK2401165191 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Bangladesh has protested to Iraq over alleged involvement of the Iraqi Embassy in the attacks on different foreign missions in Dhaka in the wake of the outbreak of the Gulf war. A Foreign Office spokesman said the government had also drawn the attention of Iraq to the allegations that the Iraqi Embassy in Dhaka was behind the demonstrations and rallies to drum up support for the Iraqi cause in the Gulf conflict. An Iraqi diplomat, who came to the Foreign Office, denied the charges. The spokesman said Bangladesh maintains good relations with all nations and it would be most unfortunate if any foreigner is harassed or any foreign mission is attacked in Dhaka with any motived purpose.

### Troops Guard Diplomatic Areas After Violence

*BK1901163291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 19 Jan 91*

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 19 (AFP)—Paramilitary troops moved into Dhaka's diplomatic areas Saturday, a day after pro-Iraqi protestors attacked some western and Arab embassies, police said.

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel were posted to beef up police security in the Gulshan and Baridhara districts of the capital, where a group of anti-war marchers Friday broke police cordons to throw stones at U.S. and Saudi buildings, police and diplomatic sources said.

The metropolitan police here enforced a prohibitory order, banning public protests and gatherings of four or more people in and around the two districts, state-run television reported, adding the ban was effective immediately.

Three foreigners, including two French nationals, were "slightly injured" in Friday's violence, one foreign diplomat in Gulshan said.

Apart for a peaceful protest march, the two districts remained quiet Saturday, he said.

Police admitted that Friday's protestors had damaged windows in the Saudi Embassy in Gulshan and later stormed the American Club nearby, damaging furniture and equipment inside.

Stones were also thrown at the huge U.S. Embassy in Baridhara but no major damage was caused, police said.

Meanwhile, some 110 western nationals including 30 Americans, have volunteered to leave Bangladesh during the weekend, one western diplomat here said.

Most of the 110 westerners had planned to fly to Bangkok Sunday, he said but pointed out that recent terrorist threats in the Thai capital might cause some of them to delay their departure.

There are some 220 French nationals in Bangladesh, but none of them have any plans to leave Bangladesh at the moment, a senior French diplomat here said.

"We have issued no special warnings, but have just told them to be cautious," he said.

### Emergency Measures To Be Taken Due to Gulf War

*BK1901170491 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jan 91*

[Text] In view of the prevailing war situation in the Gulf area, the government has decided to take some emergency measures to avoid any untoward situation and to ensure austerity in all possible (?spheres). The measures include formation of an advisory committee for emergency management to review the overall situation from time to time and to take necessary remedial steps. A monitoring cell will be set up in the Ministry of Commerce to watch the price position of essential commodities and to take necessary steps against hoarding of any commodity which [words indistinct] relevant authority. The petrol pumps in the country will remain closed on Fridays and the sale of any petroleum product is prohibited. The transportation of goods belonging to the public sector should be done through railways instead of road transport as far as possible. Official visits by government officials inside the country should be done by railways instead of using government vehicles where railway facility is available. All shops and commercial institutions except hotels and food and medicine shops, wholesale markets for foodstuffs and market for perishable goods should be closed after 2000.

### Foreign Office on Gulf Peace Initiatives

*BK2001162991 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jan 91*

[Text] Bangladesh is closely monitoring the peace initiatives being made by different countries for a cessation of hostilities in the Gulf. All initiatives are welcome, but success of these moves depends on Iraq's readiness to vacate occupied Kuwait. Talking to newsmen in Dhaka today, a Foreign Office spokesman made it clear that use of the force has a cover of the UN Security Council since all efforts for a peaceful withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait had exhausted without any positive results. He said Bangladesh does not approve of any war, and here is the case which has to be seen in the light of the resolution of the UN Security Council. He, however, said Bangladesh's position on the right of Palestinian people and restoration of occupied Arab land is well known.

The spokesman said there are about 400,000 Bangladeshi nationals in the Gulf countries, and reports received from these countries speak of no unusual concern in them for returning home. They are safe and having normal life in most of the countries. The Bangladesh Army Headquarters is maintaining constant contact with the Bangladesh military contingent in Saudi Arabia. According to the latest communications with them today, all officers and troops of the contingent are reported to be safe at their position.

### Commentary Discusses War Toll, Postwar Settlement

*BK2401134291 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] The war in the Gulf has taken a serious turn with the involvement of the Iraqi and the multinational land forces and an escalation of the aerial offensive. Evidences are emerging that there have been large-scale devastations and many civilian targets have been hit on both sides of the war front. The claims made by Iraqis and the United States-led forces since the war broke out a week ago point to heavy losses and there are indications that the war may drag on, leading to mounting human casualties.

While the principal combatants speak of continuing the war, there are several international moves to bring about a cease-fire and resume the process for a negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis. The peace offensive of the Nonaligned Movement led by Yugoslavia and India and the call for halting the war by a group of the Arab North African countries have been drawing support in the last few days. Both groups have stressed that cessation of hostilities should lead to sincere efforts on the part of the international community under UN auspices to bring about a wider solution of the Middle East problem.

This means that the problems created by the Zionist occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and the need for creating an independent homeland will form a vital part of the negotiations when the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is discussed. In one of the most recent resolutions of the UN Security Council, the problem of the Palestinians has been recognized and that an international conference on the Middle East leading to a comprehensive peace formula proposed. The war has not changed that perspective, rather it has made such a peace meeting more crucial than before. There should not be any objection to the proposed conference and no preconditions should be set. The current peace moves should be integrated with the UN resolution on the peace conference.

The Security Council resolution on military action against Iraq has given mandate to the multinational forces to seek the withdrawal of Baghdad from Kuwait and not a wanton destruction of the Arab states. Also the territorial integrity of Iraq has to be safeguarded. There is no scope for changing the political configuration of the Middle East which can affect the present frontiers of the Arab states. The danger of a move of that nature is there are many regional countries that have already sounded warnings against such a heinous plan. Iran has said that it will oppose a move to change the political map of the Middle East, and Syria, which has supported the multinational forces in the Gulf war, declared it cannot side with any strategy which is aimed at disintegrating Iraq and any other Arab country. These statements have come when there have been reports of partitioning Iraq after the war. There is no doubt that such a move by the

multinational forces would be strongly opposed by the Arab and the Muslim countries. It will only complicate matters and create new [word indistinct] for continuing the tension in the Middle East. The multinational forces have also no mandate for such a move and the UN Security Council should intervene in such an event.

The Gulf war has very aptly highlighted the fact that one cannot allow genuine issue to remain unresolved and fester. The question of the Palestinian homeland is as real and urgent as the need for restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty. But for the last four decades, the Security Council, because of Western and Zionist pressures, has overlooked the sufferings of millions of Palestinian homeless. It also practically ignored the increasing repression by the Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank. Even as the Gulf war rages, millions of Palestinians in the occupied territories live curfew-bound prisoners in their makeshift refugee camps.

### Ex-Premier, Ministers Ordered To Report to Jail

*BK2501075191 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Text] The government has ordered the former prime minister, Qazi Zafar Ahmed, and ten other ministers of ousted President Ershad to report to the authorities of Dhaka Central Jail within seven days. The ministers are: Naziur Rahman, Lieutenant Colonel Retired Zafer Imam, A.B.M. Ruhul Amin Havaldar, Anisul Islam Mahmud, Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, Qazi Feroze Rashid, Abul Hasnat, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Anwar Hussain Manju and and Sardar Amjad Hussain.

A press note issued in Dhaka yesterday said the government has served detention orders for 120 days for them under the Special Powers Act of 1974 in the interest of public safety and order. The former prime minister and ministers are now in hiding. Failing to report within this period, they will be (?in contempt) to suffer one year rigorous imprisonment or pay fine or both.

### 7 Parties Leave Awami League, Join Leftist Group

*BK2001085891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 20 Jan 91*

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 20 (AFP)—The Awami League, the political alliance headed by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, has suffered a major pre-poll jolt with the surprise desertion of seven of its constituent parties over electoral seat adjustments.

In a statement Sunday, the seven said they were ending their nearly eight-year participation in the league after its leaders refused to set aside for them 72 out of 300 parliamentary seats in the February 27 polls.

The seven, including the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and National Awami Party (NAP), also announced that they now would unite with a five-party left-wing group which broke ranks with the league in 1986.

The new alliance, known as the Democratic Coalition, was announced hours after the last negotiations between league officials and its alliance partners ended abruptly Saturday.

During those talks, league officials reportedly said they were unable to set aside more than 32 seats for their political allies.

League leader Mohammad Nasim on Sunday regretted the break, saying it had taken place despite an offer for further negotiations.

Sheikh Hasina, who chaired the original 15-party alliance in 1983 at the start of the opposition's campaign to oust Hussein Mohammad Ershad as president, was unavailable for comment.

### Students Demand Ershad Be Banned From Elections

*BK2301164891 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 91*

[Text] A delegation of Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] called on the acting president Shahabuddin Ahmed today. During the meeting BNP leaders brought allegations of use of arms and ill-gotten money by [Ershad's] Jatiya Party members. The BNP leaders urged the acting president to take prompt action in the matter in the interest of free and fair elections. The delegation was led by BNP Secretary General Abdul Salam Talukder.

The All Party Students Unity [APSU] at rally in Dhaka this evening demanded cancellation of the nomination papers of ousted president Ershad and other Jatiya Party candidates. The APSU reiterated its demand for immediate transfer of General Ershad to the central jail and the arrest of his corrupted ministers and other associates for trial. The APSU leaders said the Jatiya Party candidates are vitiating the election environment by free use of their ill-gotten money.

### BNP Chief Doubts Election To Be Free, Fair

*BK2501103891 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Jan 90 p 1*

[Text] Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] chief Begum Khaleda Zia Monday [14 January] expressed her doubts that with the present voter list the coming polls would not be free and fair, reports BSS [BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA—BANGLADESH NEWS SERVICE].

She said "after seeing the voter list, we do not think that elections would be at all free and fair".

Mentioning particularly the voter list of Gulshan and Cantonment areas, Begum Zia said "we did not see name of any gentlemen in the list. We can show such a list where father is Hindu and son is Muslim" she said.

The BNP chief was exchanging views with the members of Juba Ainjibi Samity [lawyers association] at the party's Banani office.

Convener of the Samity advocate Muhammmad Abul Kalam Azad and other leaders including Mr. A.K.M. Saiful Islam, Mostafa Kamal Chowdhury and Ms Selina Sultana were present in the meeting.

BNP leader Barrister Nazmul Huda also attended the meeting.

Begum Zia also deplored the violent activities took place in the city for the last few days and demanded punishment of the real culprits.

She called upon the caretaker government to resist such incidents with strong hands.

Begum Zia also underscored the need for immediate recovery of all illegal arms, otherwise she said holding of free and fair elections would be jeopardised.

She said the accomplices of the Ershad regime were still moving freely and using their illegally earned money to create violence in the country. She said this quarter was creating violence as it did not want establishment of people's representative government which would make them accountable to people.

The Samity leader informed Begum Zia that the Samity had constituted a 120-member observation team to help the holding of free and fair elections.

An earlier report says: Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief Begum Khaleda Zia on Sunday said BNP would prefer privatisation and market economy.

She said the Export Processing Zone was opened during the time of BNP government.

Begum Zia talking to the members of visiting Japanese parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. Makoto Taneda and Mr. Tetsuo Inouse at the residence of BNP leader Mustafizur Rahaman in Dhaka. [sentence as published]

She said BNP would get maximum number of seats if the forthcoming parliamentary elections were held in a free and fair atmosphere.

Begum Zia said BNP will give the democracy structural shape, if it was voted to power. BNP will ensure freedom of Judiciary. BNP by creating cracks in the party, but he failed because Saheed President Ziaur Rahman established the base of the party in the remote areas of the country. [sentence as published]

Pointing to the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Japan Begum Zia said it would further improve the relation. Besides, BNP wanted to maintain friendly and cordial relations with the neighbouring countries, she added.

Mr. Makoto congratulated Begum Zia for her uncompromising role in the democratic movement and said "we sincerely want economic development and progress of Bangladesh." He said Japan was always ready to share its experience in the economic development of Bangladesh.

The leaders of the delegation also hoped that Bangladesh would go ahead unhindered with its development programme.

### Navy Carries Out Successful Guided Missile Test

*BK2001170091 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jan 91*

[Text] The annual training exercise of Bangladesh Navy was concluded in the Bay of Bengal today. About 25 ships of various types took active part in the exercise. Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Amir Ahmed Mustafa was on board BNS Osman to assess the effectiveness of the exercise. For the first time guided missile frigate BNS Osman successfully launched a guided missile and effectively hit the assigned target. The exercise was also witnessed by the Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Mohammad Nuruddin Khan, Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmed, principal staff officers, and other senior officers of the three services.

## India

### Sikh Militants To Send 'Probe Mission' to Delhi

*BK2401160691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 24 (AFP)—A Sikh militant leader said Thursday he was sending a mission here to see if talks with the Indian Government could help end a bloody Sikh separatist campaign in Punjab.

Sikh Students Federation (SSF) President Manjit Singh said in Punjab's capital city of Chandigarh that the mission would assess if Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar was capable of meeting Sikh demands.

The "probe mission" would "assess the real intentions of the centre and the power and capacity of Mr. Shekhar to give the Sikhs their due," the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted him as saying.

Mr. Manjit Singh, who was released from prison on January 15, told a crowded news conference he would consult all Sikh guerrilla groups as well as political parties before sending the team but did not name a date.

Thursday's announcement came almost a month after Punjab's most respected Sikh politician held preliminary peace talks with Mr. Shekhar in New Delhi and as Sikh separatist violence in the state left 12 more people dead.

Six of the victims killed in the northern Indian state overnight Wednesday were Sikh militants, who have been campaigning since 1983 for an independent homeland called Khalistan (Land of the Pure).

The others were civilians shot dead by suspected Sikh militants.

Mr. Manjit Singh, whose group supports the Khalistan demand, said Mr. Shekhar, who became India's eighth prime minister November 10, appeared sincere in his approach to the Sikhs.

He also praised Mr. Shekhar, 63, for repeatedly inviting the Sikh guerrillas for talks.

"We feel that Mr. Chandra Shekhar is more sincere than all the previous prime ministers in sorting out the problems of the Sikhs," the SSF leader said. "He has shown open heartedness and we welcome it."

Mr. Manjit Singh's statement appeared to contain the first hope of a dialogue since the December 28 talks between Mr. Shekhar and Mr. Mann, who has been denounced by most Sikh separatist groups for meeting the Indian premier.

At least 241 people have been killed this year in the Khalistan campaign.

In other developments, an unspecified number of Sikh political activists were arrested in Punjab Thursday to foil a general strike called by Sikh rebels on the occasion of India's republic day Saturday.

The two-day protest is set to begin Friday.

PTI said the Punjab administration had directed district authorities to "take all preventive steps" to scuttle the strike by ensuring all road and rail traffic plied normally.

The Punjab police have also been told to see that people take part in government-sponsored Republic Day celebrations and that Sikh guerrillas did not hoist black or Khalistan flags Saturday.

### More 'Pakistan-Trained' Kashmir Militants Surrender

*BK2401162791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, 19 more Pakistan-trained militants have surrendered with arms and ammunition to the security forces. According to an official spokesman, these militants belong to the different underground organizations. With this, the number of Pakistan-trained militants surrendering to the authorities in Jammu and Kashmir has gone up to 140.

### Shekhar's Address to Nation on Gulf

*BK2001080491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1456 GMT 19 Jan 91*

[Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's "Message to the Nation"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] It is regrettable that all efforts to avert a war in Gulf area failed. We made a determined bid to see that war does not take place. But, unfortunately war has commenced in that area causing concern to all the people in the world, and especially to the developing nations. The impact of the war is going to be on all those nations who depend upon this area for oil supplies. Indian economy will be badly hit because of the crisis being created in this area. We made all possible efforts to see that people realize the consequences of this disastrous step, but unfortunately our voice of reason was not heard by others.

We tried to make last minute bid to avert war by writing letters to the president of the USSR and President of USA. We also tried to use the good office of the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] president—Yugoslav president—and nothing happened in that direction. We are sorry that in spite of all our efforts war has come. Indian people will have to suffer because of the dislocation of supplies of petroleum products and also because of the increasing prices. But, I want to assure our people that we have enough reserves to meet the requirements of the country for the time being. Only if war prolongs for a longer time, we will be hit on that count. But we cannot afford the luxury to indulge in waste because we should conserve every petroleum product to the best of our capacity. In last 40 years of our independence, Indian people all the time have proved equal to the occasion. Whenever a crisis faced the nation, Indian people made the supreme sacrifice to see that dignity, honor, and prestige of the nation is maintained. In this period of crisis again, I only call upon the willing cooperation of our people and their sense of endurance, patience, and determined action to meet every challenge that comes before us.

It is sad that some nations in the world and some people do not realize that no war had ever a neat ending. Who is victorious today, who is going to be defeated, matters little. Ultimately it is humanity which loses. Destruction of human beings, destruction of property and its effect upon the ecology and environment is going to be enormous. It is sad that this has not been realized by those who are trying to browbeat each other, and not only they have continued a brinkman position, but they have once more forced the whole humanity to the brink of war. Even after what has happened, it is our constant endeavor that there should be peace and peace should be restored immediately. But, unfortunately, the trend has been of escalating the war theater. This tendency should be stopped.

I appeal to all the concerned people not to escalate the war and try to come to terms so that peace is restored immediately in that area and then we can think over all other problems in a more calm and cordial atmosphere. I realize that time has not passed. Even in this hour, we should make a determined bid to see that peace is restored in this region. We have special relations—friendly relations—with Arab countries. Our heart goes to them to see the devastation and destruction in that area. This is why we are getting in touch with all the leaders of the world to see that something is done so that good will and cordiality again is restored in this region.

Our immediate effort should be to restore peace in that area, all other matters can be taken care of subsequently.

I have had discussions with leaders of public opinion in this country and Indian people as one are of the view that the first task is that we should restore peace in that area. I had a discussion, a long discussion, with all the chief ministers. I was glad that all of them extended their full support and cooperation in meeting the situation, and they also assured that we should do everything to see that normalcy is maintained in this country. Unfortunately, there are certain tendencies where people try to trade in the misery of the common man. This tendency should be curbed. All profiteers and smugglers and hoarders should realize that this is not the time to make easy money. I shall like to appeal to them that they should refrain from all such activities. But, if it does not happen we shall have no other option but to come heavily on them. We cannot just tolerate hoarding and profiteering in this situation. I shall request all the state governments and also the people that if such tendencies are seen anywhere, they should try to curb it in the very beginning. I hope and trust that people will respond effectively in a determined manner in this effort.

My heart goes to Indian people who are in the Gulf region. Their security and their welfare is our prime concern. We are in constant touch with the governments in that area and we are monitoring the situation in the area of war. In spite of all our efforts, some of them will have to suffer. But the government will do everything possible to see that their security and their well-being remains the prime concern of the government. We shall always keep in touch with the people in that area and will communicate to the nation whatever happens in dealing with the problems facing the people of our Indian origin in the Gulf region.

I hope and trust that in this hour of crisis, people will not take to panic, they will not hear rumors. If rumors are there, you should try to check up whether they are based on substance or they are just to create panic among the people. I am confident that Indian people have the spiritual strength, inherent strength and they have the necessary resilience to rise up to the occasion and face this crisis in a determined manner. There are enough stocks of foodgrains and other essential commodities. There is no reason that there should be any rise in the prices. I assure the people that all the basic needs of the people will be met without any obstruction and if any problem is there, the government has got the capacity, the necessary resolve to meet the situation. I once more call upon the people, especially upon the younger people that they should cooperate in this endeavor by maintaining peace and order in the land. Any differences, small, petty squabbles should be stopped. Any quarrel, any disorder, any law and order problem to be created at this hour of crisis will be against the interest of the nation. I hope and trust that small differences will be relegated to the background and Indian people will rise to the occasion as one with unity, with cohesion, with determined mind to face this challenge. I once more assure you that with the strength of our economy, with the strength of our people, with willing cooperation of our masses, especially the toiling people working in the field and factories, we shall come out successful in dealing with the challenges of today.

## Commerce Minister Reaffirms Policy on Palestine

*BK2401162291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] The commerce minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, has said that the country needs to be united at this critical juncture to face the challenges due to the Gulf war. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said India is making every effort to prevent the extension and intensification of the conflict and to restore peace. Dr. Swamy denied the allegation by the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, that India has deviated from or diluted its policy on Palestine. He said India will continue to press for the convening of an international peace conference on West Asia.

## Republic Day Parade Planned Despite Austerity

*BK2301032891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0052 GMT 23 Jan 91*

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 22 (AFP)—India has waived stern austerity measures ordered after the outbreak of the Gulf war to rehearse for an annual parade this weekend designed to display the country's military superiority in South Asia.

The rehearsal for India's 41st Republic Day celebration ignores a 25-per-cent fuel cut and a ban on lavish spending, and involves thousands of people who will cobble together the three-hour show to be broadcast live.

Squadrons of Soviet-built T-55 and T-72 tanks and other military hardware are lined up across New Delhi's centrepoint, where the army plans to display some of the weapons and electronic systems also being used by rival armies in the Gulf war.

The final rehearsal for Saturday's parade will be held Thursday when contingents from the 1.2-million army, paramilitary troopers and other fighting wings will show their latest weaponry.

The army will show off Soviet-supplied Scud missiles, which Iraq has been firing at Israel and Saudi Arabia, plus Soviet MIG-27 and French Mirage 2000 warplanes, a spokesman said.

Beside displaying models of Indian-made submarines and ships, the parade will focus on the multi-million-dollar array of combat missiles which India has started building, the organisers say.

"We don't calculate how much is spent because the parade has to be held," said a senior military organiser.

But he added that the Presidential Palace will be illuminated for only two days instead of the traditional week as an austerity step.

Earlier reports have put the cost of the annual display of military might at around 1.3 billion dollars, a figure than has not officially been confirmed or denied.

## Iran

### Khamene'i Castigates U.S. for 'Aggression'

*LD2401211191 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, addressed a meeting today with representatives of the seminarians and students of Qom Seminary. He referred to the war which is going on in the Persian Gulf region and, while expressing the Islamic Republic of Iran's profound concern at the killing of the oppressed and defenseless people of Iraq as a result of the aggression of the United States and its allies, said: Mr. Bush is a murderer and a criminal because of the bombing of Iraqi cities and the killing of the people of that country.

At this meeting His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i considered that current events in the Persian Gulf region are among the most important issues in the history of the Islamic Revolution. He noted how the endless aggressive nature of big world powers—led by the United States—has been exposed. He said: They have come here from the other side of the world in order to interfere in a problem which can be solved within regional relations. They are carrying out this intervention, which is wrong in essence, with utter cruelty and without mercy. The Iraqi regime and its ringleaders are themselves responsible and guilty and are accomplices to the crimes. But our problem concerns the nation and land of Iraq which they are in the process of destroying and turning to ruins.

How can these powers give themselves the right to fire at any target they want? What sins have the inhabitants of the cities of Basra, Hillah, Ammarah, Baghdad, the holy shrines and other cities of Iraq commited that they should lose their lies and possessions, refineries, factories, and their airports? How many years will the people of Iraq have to work in order to procure once again those things which have been taken away from them? This is a crime and one cannot imagine a crime bigger than this.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i termed the bombing of Iraqi cities as the most blatant crime of the United States and its allies such as France and Britain, and added: Woe to humanity when it has these criminals as the standard-bearers of its human rights who want to present to the world a wrong culture which is the outcome of the hated Western civilization. They have no qualms about dropping thousands of tonnes of bombs over cities and on the heads of children, the sick, and defenseless and innocent civilians and yet they consider the showing of a pilot of a downed plane on television to be against that or this convention and they resort to sensationalism and hue-and-cry over this.

This is Western culture and its understanding of human realities and it [Western culture] is truly a misfortune thrown on the world by the Westerners. They want to impose Western culture on the world through the dissemination of this way of understanding human virtues and vices and social ethics.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution, referring to the fact that Iraq is one of the great centers of Islamic civilization, said: The Iraqi nation has worked hard for many years building schools, houses and roads, airports, and factories. But, today, a criminal hand—on the pretext of war with the Iraqi regime and while the military forces of that regime are confronting it—has begun killing immaculate [tayyebeh] and innocent civilians. This is a very painful problem for us, and Mr. Bush is a murderer and a criminal because of the bombing of cities and the killing of the defenseless people of Iraq.

The Guardian of the Cause [Vali-e e amr] of Muslims also referred to the remarks made by His Holiness the Imam [Khomeyni]—may he be admitted to God's paradise—that the United States cannot do a damn thing: [hich qalati nemitavanad bokonad] and said: The powers involved in the Persian Gulf war declared that they would be destroying the enemy in a short space of time, yet available news shows that the invaders cannot feel any more fortunate or more proud than the side which is under attack and that they have sustained the same amount of losses or casualties among their forces. Thus, it has become clear once again that the mythical power which superpowers portrayed in the minds of nations is unreal.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution considered that the equipment which is being used in Iraq against the invading forces are the products of the ill-will and baseness of the arrogant powers. Emphasizing that there are lessons to be learned from this, he said: It was these same superpowers which placed at the disposal of the Iraqi regime missile bases and launchers, together with the missiles, aircraft, antiair units, modern, and advanced military equipment with which to crush the Islamic Revolution. The East and the West placed at the Iraqi regime's disposal money, propaganda, weapons, and military techniques to destroy Islam. But, thanks to the grace of God, not only were they not able to destroy Islam and the Islamic Revolution, today those same resources are being used against themselves and this itself is truly a lesson to be learned, and understanding this means understanding the power of God.

In another part of his speech, the leader of the Islamic Revolution addressed the leaders of the Iraqi regime, and said: These gentlemen who have brought Iraq under the boot of the aggressor invaders, what do they have to say to the Iraqi nation? What right did you have to involve the Iraqi nation in an unwanted war in order to satisfy your ambitions? Have the head of state and

officials of a country the right to risk the destruction and annihilation of the vital and human resources of a country in order to fulfill their ambitions? Are you the guardians of the people of Iraq that you should occupy Kuwait and then turn Iraq and its oppressed nation into targets for the abject enemy. This issue cannot be defended in any way and no one can defend it. Anyone who tries to defend it or tries to justify their stand is deceiving himself.

His eminence pointed to eight years of the holy defense of the Muslim nation of Iran and said: For eight years we defended the honor, reputation, religious and territorial integrity, people, revolution, government, Islamic system, and the holy Koran—and such a defense is holy. But the Iraqi regime, which began its work with aggression—how can it today satisfy its conscience when it has involved itself and the nation of Iraq in this burning furnace. Their interests have clashed with those of the United States and both have jumped at each others' throats, and in the middle of all this the people of Iraq and the region have suffered and the abject Zionist regime will benefit from this.

The Zionist Israeli regime, exploiting this opportunity, has begun to pursue more than ever before its expansionist objectives and has flooded the occupied territories with immigrant Jews. What Iraq has done is definitely beneficial to the enemies of Islam and Israel and to the detriment of the people of Iraq and the Muslim people of the region—even though Israel, having felt what it is like to be hit by missiles, can now understand up to a point the pressures that it has brought to bear on the oppressed people of Palestine.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution stressed that the stand adopted by the Islamic Revolution of Iran in the face of the current war in the Persian Gulf region is 100 percent Islamic and revolutionary. He said: Some people intend to wrongly define the word neutral. From the start of the revolution until now we have fought against the East and the West which united against us. While there exised an East and a West in the world, the slogan of our revolution was to denounce the East and the West and oppose both of them. We never united with the left against the right nor with the right against the left. The sides involved in conflict in the Persian Gulf—from our point of view and from the point of view of all realistic people—are fighting for the wrong objectives, which are unholy and contrary to divine law, and the Islamic Republic rejects both parties since their motivations and conflict are based on materialistic considerations.

This war is not a war of Islam against Blasphemy where one is divine and the other is for materialist aims. This is the stand adopted by the people of Iran and we are extremely concerned and worried about the oppressed, Muslim, and defenseless Iraqi nation, which is being trampled underfoot on the one hand because of power-seeking drives and ambitions, and on the other hand because of the aggressive and rapacious natures [of the Western powers].

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i also stressed the need for seminaries to attend to their essential and important needs in order to place them in the path of scientific advances and the growth of flourishing of seminarians. He said: There is a need for the establishment of a broad-based and complete working and academic system providing for instruction, research, and learning in the seminaries, so that seminarians may be used to expand, propagate, and publicize Islam.

An understanding of the current problems of the country and of the world, as well as the ability to analyze and grasp issues should be of the highest of standards in the seminaries. Our seminarians and clergymen should be able to publicly place at other peoples' disposal correct political viewpoints and a grasp of current problems and thus guide people in this way. Distorted or superficial understanding of problems is highly detrimental to seminaries. Seminaries should resist the dangers of wrong guidelines based on unhealthy ideas that are prone to bias, ossification, lack of understanding, or mistaken understanding. Harming the seminary and its disintegration is harming illustrious and universal Islam; and this issue relates to the Islamic system and the outlook of all the Muslims of the world who are today looking to the Islamic Republic.

The leader of the Islamic Republic noted the need for seminarians to be fully familiar with Islamic teachings and current problems and to be able to distinguish correctly and in time between various needs. He added: Today, people ask questions from clergymen about domestic and regional issues as well as different kinds of world policies; If we are able to have a large number of clerics who have substantial knowledge of religion and who are politically astute, they will become the source of a great deal of benefit and they will be effective. But this is not possible without intellectual, political, and spiritual development.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed the need for seminarians to preserve an instructive, healthy, cheerful and happy spirit and the need for the presence of seminary representatives in decisionmaking. He said: A seminarian should be a source of cheerfulness and act as a catalyst. He should show initiative and creativity, together with reliance on the rules of seminaries and the tradition of respecting the lecturers because it is in this way that the seminarian will be placed in the frontline of the revolution's concerns. He who is busy learning his lessons in the seminary should place himself in the frontline and on hearing the call to war and jihad.

In conclusion, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i explained the importance of formal lessons in seminaries being broad-based and the teaching should follow the methods of ejtehad [religious jurisprudence]. He also said explicitly that together with learning their lessons, seminarians should participate in the political, social, and military fields and should enter the arena of propagation and enlighten people.

Before the remarks made by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Faker presented the leader of the revolution with a report on the activities over the past year and a half of the Association of Representatives of Seminarians and Scholars of the Qom Seminary.

### IRGC Commander Warns Against Aggression

*LD2401140991 Tehran IRNA in English 1246 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24 IRNA—A senior military commander says that Iran is ready to face any "possible aggression" by employing "new tactics".

Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i in an interview with the Persian daily KAYHAN, also warned against the continuing U.S. presence in the region.

"If the U.S. does not intend to withdraw from the region and halt the war (with Iraq)...insecurity will continue for another decade and this is a big danger threatening the entire region," Reza'i told KAYHAN in Ahvaz, capital of oil rich Khuzestan Province bordering Iraq. "This is more so particularly if the main enemies of the region and the Islamic world may want to take advantage of this crisis."

"For this reason, the Iranian combatant forces, while taking into consideration the government's independent stance, are watching the developments and are prepared to repel any aggression against our territory.

"We have also undergone necessary training and launched war games and are also designing new tactics and carrying out some training in view of the current war in the region. And upon strict orders of the great leader (Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i) all the members of the armed forces are on the alert to safeguard their homeland."

Reza'i said any decision for Iran's military involvement in the war depended on the country's political officials.

On Iraq's military strength, he said the modern and advanced weapons Baghdad has received from the West has raised its military capability compared with the Western forces.

Asked about the massing of troops by Iran in the southern and western regions of the country, he said: "It is to show our combat readiness and maintain our presence in the scene so that if the scope of the war spreads and there is a covetous eye on our country, we would confront them with power."

### UN Envoy on Diplomatic Efforts To End War

*NC2501063591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Text] The diplomatic efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the war in the region have triggered new activities among UN members. Mr. Kharrazi, the Islamic Republic's permanent representative to the United Nations, said in this regard:

[Begin Kharrazi recording] Over the past few days and in coordination with Tehran, we held many meetings with members of the Nonaligned Movement, the Security Council president, the secretary general, and various delegations in order to encourage the Security Council, the United Nations, and the secretary general not to remain indifferent to the Persian Gulf war and to undertake efforts to prevent further bloodshed.

The big question before the Security Council members is why is it that the Security Council, which held regular sessions until 15 January and issued many resolutions about the Persian Gulf crisis, has remained indifferent and done nothing since the day the war began. This is at a time when the war is intensifying and may drag on for a long time. Human and international laws are being violated. Therefore, the Security Council cannot remain indifferent; it should keep an eye on the war, state its views, and study and assess the situation.

We sent a letter to the secretary general in this connection and encouraged him to intervene. In addition, we held talks with the Security Council chairman. We are continuing our efforts in the hope that, God willing, the Security Council and the United Nations will play a more active role.

Last night—New York time—an unofficial Security Council session was held, but it did not adopt a decision on convening an open session at a specific date. The Security Council chairman was tasked with continuing his discussions with the interested parties so that a decision will be made in the coming days on whether a session will be held.

I believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran can play an extremely important role in relation with this and, God willing, activities toward this end will be carried out in Tehran, in New York, and in other representations of the Islamic Republic. We hope that no further blood is shed and that the fire of war, which is spreading more and more each day, will be extinguished. [end recording]

### Syria's Khaddam Concludes Visit With Statement

*LD2401110791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Our correspondent reports that after a 24-hour visit, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam left Tehran at midday today with an official send-off by our country's first vice president, Hasan Ebrahim Habibi. Before leaving Tehran, Mr. Khaddam said in an interview with reporters that during the talks with the Iranian authorities all aspects of the Persian Gulf crisis were reviewed. The Iranian and Syrian officials share common views on all matters. He added: Iran and Syria have agreed that the two countries' officials should hold meetings.

In conclusion, Mr. Khaddam expressed concern about the Persian Gulf crisis and said: There are still some solutions to end this crisis, and an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait should take place as soon as possible.

On the basis of this report, Mr Habibi said about the outcome of the talks: During these talks, the Iranian and Syrian officials stressed the need to safeguard the territorial integrity of Iraq and internationally recognized borders.

### Rally Condemns U.S, War Against Iraq

*LD2401184591 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] The people of Orumiyeh held a rally today on Imam Street to condemn the U.S-led multinational war against Iraq.

The marchers passed along Imam Street chanting slogans against America and the Qods occupation regime [Israel]. They then gathered in Revolution Square.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasani, representative of the Vali-e Faqih [vice regent of the jurisconsult] and Friday Imam of Orumiyeh, said in a speech: This war has no result but the destruction and annihilation of Muslim assets.

The marchers issued a four-point resolution protesting against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and condemning the presence of the multinational forces, led by America, in the region. They also supported the Islamic Republic of Iran's positions toward the war.

### TEHRAN TIMES Editorials View Gulf War

#### Against Accepting War Wounded

*NC2501092591 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Jan 91 p 2*

[Editorial: "War Will Only Bring More Chaos"]

[Text] Yesterday morning's deadline set by the UN Security Council for Iraq to quit Kuwait came and passed without any movement from Baghdad. Likewise, the United States did not succumb to the growing international consensus against going to war and two developments leave the world with bated breath about the consequence.

The most common scenario if war breaks out is that the United States will carry out a blitzkrieg attack against Iraq with the aim of quickly destroying its considerable war machinery. President George Bush well knows that the American public opinion would not stand a protracted conflict with the regular dispatch of body bags carrying the corpses of U.S. soldiers. He is also unsure of holding together a supportive alliance or controlling the direction of war.

For Iraq, the other belligerent party, it is suggested that Saddam Husayn would prefer a long drawn-out conflict if hostilities erupted that would develop into a war of attrition. The Iraqi president repeatedly has said he would target Israel with missiles if the United States launched a first-strike. This would drastically change the situation of the U.S.-alliance [as published], with the Arab nations turning against any Zionist retaliations and making Saddam achieve his long-awaited ambition as champion of the Arab world. And in any Arab-Israeli conflict the whole Muslim world would also join in expressing their enmity against the Zionist entity and United States.

Meanwhile, Iran's neutrality, however, in the outbreak of war will be of vital importance and despite being so close to the scene of the inferno, any uncalculated statement could raise unwanted political and legal consequences. It would therefore be imperative that both the authorities in Iran and its missions abroad refrain from any comments that jeopardize its position.

According to recent reports, the International Red Cross is said to have asked Iran to provide services for the wounded in the event of war. Though this proposal could be viewed positively with Iran being a secure region, facilities in the country are still somewhat limited due to the 8 years of war and the U.S.-led embargo against Iran.

It should therefore be stated that owing to inadequate medical supplies to deal with such casualties, the Islamic Republic is unable to accept wounded militarymen from either side, while on the other hand, refugees rushing from the scene of conflict in the Persian Gulf should be welcomed.

#### Need for 'New World Peace Body'

*NC2501092991 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Jan 91 p 2*

[Editorial: "New World Peace Body Required"]

[Text] Finally all diplomatic scrambles failed to prevent outbreak of a war in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf that can only be catastrophic. Some 19 hours after the UN deadline ran out, U.S.-led allied forces started offensive attacks against Iraq.

Contrary to early Western media reports, claiming that U.S. devastation of the Iraqi war machine including missile sites, eight missiles have struck Israel so far.

In case of Israel retaliating against Iraq, some Arab and Muslim countries most probably will get involved in the war siding with Iraq.

Under these circumstances where the world is heading toward an appalling and uncertain future, countries remaining out of the scene of the inferno must do their best, first to prevent more bloodshed and, second to seek ways for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and foreign forces from the region.

The bloodshed and destruction now raging and the failing of the 5-month-long diplomatic efforts indicates that all attempts following World War II to set up an organization to guarantee peace and security in the

world have not worked. Unfortunately, the United Nations, since its establishment some 50 years ago, has not succeeded to be a place of refuge for the world oppressed.

The structure of the UN especially the Security Council, as one of its key elements, has been based on "injustice" in the hands of the victors of World War II.

Though we have already witnessed many such instances of injustices during the 8 years of war imposed on Iran, today, again we can see a part of the same scenario.

Indeed, it has to be asked, what is the difference between the Security Council resolutions on Palestine, Kashmir, Afghanistan etc. and the resolutions on the Kuwaiti crisis?

In whatever way the war ends, nations of the free world must think of a new organization to administer the world properly. The deprived and oppressed people now, more than any other time, need to a reliable place of refuge, which is based on justice not "force" and "veto right."

### Need for Peace Initiatives

*NC2501090591 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Jan 91 p 2*

[Editorial: "Peace Initiative Urgently Needed"]

[Text] News on the Persian Gulf is at center stage on the world news, but so are peace demonstrations across the world with support in some countries for Iraq. Intense bombing runs are being made by the United States and its allies on Iraqi targets without let up and continue even as the ground forces of Iraq and the multinational forces wait poised against each other, battle lines drawn up for a possible bloody confrontation if it does come. Yet this Persian Gulf war seems like one that has gone quite berserk and it seems like high time the needless bloodshed and destruction is halted. Moreover, it is also evident that the strict censorship imposed by the United States and allied military on what exactly is taking place is not helpful in giving people throughout the world a true understanding of the dimensions of the conflict.

This region is at the brink of a precipice, with several countries perhaps threatened to be drawn into the vortex of a war that has been terribly intense though only on for less than a week yet. There is still time to call it a day and for the countries interested in bringing about a settled peace to employ all the resources at their command to endeavor to do this before the ground fighting really starts—this may be the scene of the biggest carnage, bigger than all that has happened so far from as much of it as we can gauge.

It is not too late to revive the peace initiatives by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) and others in order to limit the scope of the conflict and to stop it.

An initiative may be taken even at this stage on the following lines:

1) An immediate ceasefire on the ground, at sea, and in the air.

2) Setting of another deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait without delay.

3) For the foreign forces to leave the region as quickly as possible.

4) Palestinain problems existed even before the present Persian Gulf crisis. The linkage of the Palestinian problem with the Persian Gulf crisis is not factual as the Iraqi regime has raised the issues after its attack and occupation of Kuwait.

Now, while the talks focussed on the region are in the air the Palestinian issue should also receive priority attention of the United Nations and other organizations such as NAM and the ICO.

A mechanism should be adopted through which a time limit should be fixed for the solution to this vital problem of the entire Islamic Ummah.

An initiative such as the above if accepted by both parties in this war will be the true indicator of their motives and indeed their honesty. If not a refusal, or a lack of flexibility, on the part of one or both warring parties will only prove that they are intent on stubbornly pursuing their expansionist aims. If this is the case no one will honestly believe that the motive of the U.S.-led military forces being in the region is not in the interest of the establishment of peace and justice and for Iraq that the Kuwaiti invasion has not been inspired by the desire to liberate the Palestinians, or assert what it believes to be its claim to justice.

### Muslim Coordination Against West's 'Ploys' Urged

*NC2501040991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0608 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" program]

[Text] For more than a week now, the strategic Persian Gulf region has been facing an all-embracing and destructive war. The region, which with the end of Iraq's war with Iran was moving toward permanent stability and security with the help of regional countries, is now facing a comprehensive and destructive war. And, as the esteemed president of the Islamic Republic of Iran has said, the forces that had imposed the earlier war in order to attain their sinister objectives in the region seized Iraq's unwarranted aggression against Kuwait as a pretext to continue their hegemonistic presence and domination over the area.

An important point is that, according to Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the current war in the Persian Gulf, which started with an incorrect analysis of regional conditions by the belligerent parties and which has drawn the imperialists and Zionists to the scene, results, first and foremost, in the death of Muslims

and in the plunder and waste of the resources of the Muslim ummah. Its repercussions and grave consequences will be felt in all Islamic countries.

Therefore, the tragic events that have now plunged the Persian Gulf into blood and destruction not only will not help toward a solution of the region's longstanding problems, but will further complicate these problems and will make it more difficult than ever before for regional countries to achieve an acceptable regional security on the basis of regional countries safeguarding their own security without foreign intervention. Thus, genuine cooperation among all the Muslim governments is necessary to achieve a true and comprehensive formula to solve the crisis.

Today the United States wants to exploit the crisis stemming from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait to pave the way for the full implementation of its strategic plans in the Middle East. Therefore, if at this juncutre, a basic decision is not adopted to prevent it, it will be too late to do so tomorrow.

The most suitable way to confront the permanent presence of the multinational forces and of America in the Middle East is for Baghdad to withdraw from Kuwait and to thus pave the way for the fulfillment of this objective of the Islamic ummah because with the continued occupation of Kuwait, the imperialists will advance their expansionist plans with the official permission of the Security Council. And this is a basic problem that threatens the fate of the interests of the region's Muslim countries.

The important and basic point in the Persian Gulf war is that the multinational forces are using ultra-modern weapons to fulfill their objectives and have actually turned the region into a testing ground for their weapons. The firing of cruise missiles at Iraqi cities from American warships in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf speaks of the West's extensive military objectives. The West wants, while using modern weapons to fulfill its objectives, to create the necessary military atmosphere in the Middle East so that it can sell substantial amounts of arms in the future, and thus reap as many benefits as possible from the new conditions to advance its political-military plans.

In other words, the West wants to both usurp the region's wealth, to control oil exports, and to stabilize its military-political diktat. Ultimately, by militarizing the atmosphere of the region, it seeks to create markets for its weapons for years to come. This is the future of the complicated plans laid out by world arrogance.

Therefore, in order to confront such ploys, all the regional Islamic countries should coordinate among themselves and try—by adopting principled policies—to block the expansion of imperialist plans.

## Commentary Views U.S. Use of Turkish Territory

*NC2501095691 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 23 Jan 91*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] A German news agency has reported that another U.S. base in Turkey has been prepared for use in attacks on Iraq. Eight hangars, each able to accommodate two or three fighter or bomber aircraft, have been built at the base, which is near the town of Batman, some 180 km from the Iraqi border.

U.S. aircraft continue to fly more than 100 bombing runs a day against installations in northern Iraq. Voice of America has confirmed this report and said that the base near Batman will be the second to be used in Turkey against Iraq.

In view of the range of the F-111, F-15, and F-16 aircraft, the base in Batman is much more suitable for accommodating aircraft used to attack targets in northern Iraq than the Incirlik air base in Adana, which is 700 km from the Iraqi border. Meanwhile, another 18 hangars have been prepared at a base near Mus. [passage omitted]

To promote its own interests in the region, the United States is continuing its efforts to convince Turkey to undertake a direct military initiative aimed at opening a new front against Iraq in the northwestern sector of that country.

Turkish officials, however, reiterate from time to time that they are neutral. For example, in his talks with 'Ali Reza Mo'ayyeri, adviser to the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran on international affairs, President Turgut Ozal said that Turkey will not undertake military operations against Iraq unless it is attacked first.

Whatever Turkish officials may say, the progress of the fighting in the Gulf region will show how successful Turkey is in staying out of the war. The harm Turkey may suffer if it does become involved may be difficult to undo.

## Paper Sees U.S. as 'Show-Off Power'

*LD2401143991 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' on Thursday reflected on the current war between Iraq and the United States and its allies saying in part: "In this unholy war Washington insists on the wild killing of people for attaining its goals and it intends to inflict heavy casualties upon the Iraqi people... Those who are victimized by the United States are civilians in Iraqi towns and cities. The United States insists that the highest casualties and the heaviest economic damage be inflicted on Iraq so that in the event Iraq should agree to a cease-fire and pull-out of its troops from Kuwait it would have lost all its human resources as well as its economic capacity.

"Despite the broad propaganda by the United States and its allies about the military power of the NATO members and despite earlier claims by the United States to be able to finish the war within only a few hours today is good evidence that the United States is only a show-off power, and at least it indicates that the previous propaganda about the superpowerness of the United States had been mere propaganda lies....

"The Muslims of the world can learn from the present experience that the United States does not have the power that it pretends to have when it comes to actual fighting.

"The Iraqi regime was hopeful—and may be it is still hopeful—to win a sympathetic support of the masses by continuing missile attacks against Israel and thereby invite other countries into the battle scene and perhaps divide the rank of the multinational forces.

"Obviously because of the crimes committed by Israel, our nation would welcome any blow upon the Zionist regime, but this does not mean that we will approve of every other act of Iraq... If Iraq had not been attacked it would never have thought of paying back the attacks by attacking Israel.

"Without doubt this is a challenge of power in the unjust front. The Muslim nations and Muslim states must, while they have declared neutrality in the war, exploit everything within their means to suppress the flames of the war," concluded JOMHURI.

### ABRAR Editorial on Consequences of War

*NC2501081591 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 20 Jan 91 pp 1, 2*

[Editorial: "The Accursed Problems of War"]

[Text] The spread of the war in the Persian Gulf to other countries in the region will forge new fronts in the Middle East. Iraq has left no stone unturned in its efforts to expand the scope of the war. Meanwhile, a direct response by the Zionist regime to the Iraqi missile attacks will create the most favorable conditions for Iraq among Muslim public opinion.

A prolongation of the war is considered positive for Iraq, as it will be able to capitalize on its "resistance" to the world's greatest military powers—that is the United States, Britain, and France, or in other words, the coalition of the NATO military forces—to boost the morale of its people and Armed Forces. The prolongation of the battle in itself will lessen the very thrill and sensational aspect of the war and will make many countries in the region consider extending assistance to Iraq.

There is no doubt, however, that the United States and its allies will not allow the war to continue beyond what can be deemed a swift and short-term battle or to be transformed into a lengthy war of attrition. In any case, the United States will not be very upset if the war continues for some weeks, as it can then claim that Iraq posed such a danger to the region and the world that it took the United States and the multinational forces such a long time to crush it. This in itself would be used to justify the initiation of this war, with its attendant deaths and immense human and economic losses, and a continued foreign presence in the region.

The war will have the same negative consequences no matter how long it drags on. Only the people of the region will suffer the losses of such a war. There is no doubt that Saddam attracts the attention of Muslims through his attacks on Israel, but the liberation of Jerusalem is not his objective; rather he is trying to extricate himself from the impasse to which he brought himself through his occupation of Kuwait. The occupation focused attention on Baghdad in the short term, but in the long term Saddam will have exhausted his own strength and that of the Iraqi nation.

It is only natural that Islamic sentiments and emotions should surface in the present circumstances. Some people, however, are seeking to capitalize on these sentiments and emotions for political objectives and possibly to embroil Iran in the war. There is something here that should be kept in mind, and this is that Iraq could have mobilized all its military might and, instead of launching the imposed war on Iran or occupying Kuwait, it could have embarked, in cooperation with the progressive Islamic countries, on the liberation of Jerusalem. It did not do so.

Iranian policy on the Persian Gulf crisis has been guided by principles and logic right from the outset. In the months before the outbreak of the war, the West tried by various means to have Iran take sides, but it did not succeed and it will not, not even with the initiation of the war.

With its full military readiness, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to seek to protect its national interests and territorial integrity. It will step up its political efforts to end this war, a war whose accursed consequences will be the killing of Muslims and the undermining of their strength.

## Nepal & Bhutan

### Nepal

### 500 Demonstrate Against Gulf War

*BK1901005491 Hong Kong AFP in English 2317 GMT 18 Jan 91*

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 18 (AFP)—More than 500 protestors demonstrated against the Gulf war Friday and condemned the UN resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq, sources said.

The protestors, who also called on Iraq to leave Kuwait, carried banners and placards calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops.

They handed over a protest note to the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu accusing "U.S. militarists" of acting "under cover of the United Nations mandate" in an attempt to dominate the region.

In a separate letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, protest organisers accused the United Nations of giving Washington "a blank cheque" to invade the Middle East.

They also demanded the revocation of the resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq and called for an immediate conference on both Iraqi-occupied Kuwait and an independent Palestinian state.

Meanwhile, Home Ministry sources said "necessary police protection" had been provided against possible terrorist attacks on embassies here belonging to allied countries involved in the Gulf war.

They said "strict surveillance" was being maintained on incoming tourists from the Middle East.

### Students Object to Gurkha Soldiers in Gulf

*BK1901141491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1330 GMT 19 Jan 91*

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 19 (AFP)—Student groups in Nepal have given a protest letter to the British Embassy here, objecting to the presence of Gurkha soldiers in Britain's gulf contingent.

"We don't want Gurkha soldiers to kill Iraqis, and we also don't want Gurkhas to be killed in the Gulf," the letter said.

It was drawn up by the All Nepal National Free Student Union, the Democratic National Youth Federation and the Nepal Progressive Students' Union.

And it followed an anti-war march by several hundred students in Kathmandu on Friday that was organized by the three groups—coinciding with another protest by 5,000 people in nearby Bhaktapur.

The British Army has assigned a small number of its Nepalese recruits, or Gurkhas, to transport duties in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, Nepalese television said Saturday that Nepal's Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and his Indian counterpart Chandra Shekhar have held in-depth talks by telephone on the war in the Gulf.

"After their long conversation (Friday), the two prime ministers have agreed to activate the Non-aligned Movement for bringing about a negotiated settlement of the dispute in the gulf", the television said.

Quoting Mr. Bhattarai's office, it said: "The two leaders agreed that if the war is prolonged, it may cause damages to developmental works in the Third World and also cause more hardship to the common man in these countries."

### Prime Minister Urges Iraq To Withdraw

*BK1801041891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1820 GMT 17 Jan 91*

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 17 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai spoke Thursday of his governmment's distress at the outbreak of war in the Gulf.

Emerging from an emergency cabinet meeting, Mr. Bhattarai told journalists: "His majesty's government of Nepal is deeply distressed that hostilities have unfortunately broken out between Iraq on one hand and the United States-led allies on the other."

Mr. Bhattarai said Nepal had always supported U.N. resolutions calling for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and had backed all efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"Nepal regrets these efforts failed. The Nepalese Government feels that political settlement of entangled Middle East problems is still possible on the basis of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait," Mr. Bhattarai said.

The prime minister was swift to assure people that Nepal had sufficient fuel reserves and asked Nepalese businessman to cooperate with the government over difficulties arising from the Gulf war.

"There should not be any panic in public life," he said.

### Nepali Congress Members Criticize Own Ministers

*BK2101025391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1559 GMT 20 Jan 91*

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 20 (AFP)—Two Nepali Congress (NC) ministers in Nepal's interim government came under attack from their own party at a conference here Sunday.

Conference delegates said Home and Communications Minister Yog Prasad Upadhyay had failed to remove officials who tried to suppress pro-democracy protests in Nepal last year in which more than 500 people died.

Transport and Local Supply Minister Marshal Julum Shakya was also accused of failing to make consumer goods available in adequate quantities and to control spiralling prices.

The two ministers are NC representatives in Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's interim government.

One delegate also said the NC high command had allowed officials from the partyless panchayat system, which was overthrown last year, to join the party.

More than 10,000 delegates representing 75 districts have taken part in the three-day national conference, the first to be held openly in 30 years.

The NC took part in anti-panchayat protests last year that led to the formation of the interim government, promise of elections and promulgation of a new constitution.

### 47 Political Parties Register for Elections

*BK2301023291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1920 GMT 22 Jan 91*

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 22 (AFP)—A total of 47 political parties have applied for registration ahead of Nepal's general election, an official source said Tuesday.

"We will scrutinize all the 47 applications before getting them formally registered," Chief Election Commissioner Surya Prasad Shrestha said.

"Some may be rejected on legal grounds," he added.

"The work of demarcation of the 205 constituencies in 75 districts of the kingdom will be completed by 29 January and immediately after we will formally announce the final date for the general election," he said.

"Altogether 10.7 million adult voters, including 800,000 younger generation who have attained 18 years of age, are exercising their voting rights for the first time to elect 205 representatives of the House of Commons for five years," the commissioner said.

Another Election Commission official said that "among those 47 political parties who finally applied for the registration till Tuesday, 90 percent are new parties."

Political observers here say some 90 percent of the 47 parties will probably fail to capture more than three-percent of the total vote.

Keen competition, however, is expected between the Nepali Congress and the United Marxist and Leninist Nepal Communist Party, the observers said.

There has been no official estimate as to the number of candidates who may be nominated to stand in the polls, but political analysts put the figure at between 2,400 to 3000.

### Uncertainty Surrounds Dalai Lama's Upcoming Visit

*OW2201111091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 22 Jan 91*

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan. 22 KYODO—A scheduled visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, to Nepal still seemed uncertain Tuesday, although Nepalese Buddhist leaders in Kathmandu said extensive preparations are under way to make the visit a "truly significant event."

Official sources, however, said they were unaware of any approach made to the government concerning the Dalai Lama's trip to the Kingdom, which shares a 1,414-kilometer border with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

"Any comment at this stage is premature," said an official of the Nepalese Foreign Ministry, adding, "I don't think there has even been any application for visas so far."

Ordinarily, Nepal gives a visa of one week's duration to any visitor upon arrival. "It cannot be 'ordinary' when someone like the Dalai Lama is involved," the official added.

The news of the Tibetan exiled leader's visit to Nepal, based on a press release issued by the Nepal Buddhist Welfare Association, has received an angry reaction from Chinese officials.

An official of the Chinese Embassy here said in a statement read over the telephone that China "resolutely" opposes the visit of the Dalai Lama to Nepal.

The avowed religious purpose notwithstanding, the proposed visit will be an event with political motive, the statement added.

Asked whether any formal protest will be lodged with the Nepalese Government in this regard, the official said the matter was being discussed at the embassy.

For its part, the Tibetan community in Nepal is excited about the weeklong visit of the spiritual leader, presently scheduled to start from February 23.

"We will try to give him a rousing welcome," said Karma T. Lendup, a Western-educated Tibetan exile now living here.

He said Tibetans settled in different parts of Nepal will pour into the capital city to receive their "god-king" when he arrives.

There are an estimated 14,000 Tibetan refugees in Nepal.

During his sojourn here, the Dalai Lama is scheduled to deliver public talks on religion, besides preaching to various religious groups, according to the association.

Living in Dharmasala, north India since fleeing Tibet in 1959, the Dalai Lama last visited Nepal in 1979.

Aware that the Chinese are very sensitive about the Dalai Lama's movements, particularly in areas near Tibet's borders, the Nepalese Government of the time confined the trip to a three-hour stay in Nepalese territory to facilitate his worship at Lumbini, the birthplace of the buddha in southwest Nepal.

The present government, which came to power last April in the aftermath of an uprising against the old order, has vowed to work for more openness and religious freedom.

"We are counting on the government's promises of a new social and religious order to materialize the visit of his holiness," said a prominent Buddhist leader, requesting anonymity.

## Pakistan

### Senators Support Policy on Iraq, Condemn Bombing

*BK2401163691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Excerpt] The Senate today continued its discussion on the Gulf war, in which many senators underscored the need for a cease-fire and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region. They also condemned the large-scale destruction caused by bombing.

In his speech, Akhundzada Bahrawar Sayeed described the Iraqi military power as an asset for the Islamic community. He supported, however, the dispatch of Pakistani troops to Saudi Arabia in view of the close ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He criticized the pro-Bush administration statement by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, which she made while in the United States.

Tariq Chaudhary supported the government's policy to dispatch troops to Saudi Arabia, but said: We should not allow the United States to destroy Iraq. Nawabzada Jahangir Shah Jogezai underscored the need for a cease-fire in the Gulf and for a resolution of the Palestinian and Kashmir problems on the basis of Islamic principles and called for uniformity in the government's policy and public opinion. Qazi Abdul Latif called for efforts to convene a meeting of the UN Security Council for a cease-fire in the Gulf. He criticized the bombing of Iraq, but supported the government's policy of sending troops to Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Mahbubul Haq presented a four-point peace formula, demanding simultaneous withdrawal of forces from Kuwait and the Gulf.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed described the Gulf war as a battle between Islam and the anti-Islamic cultures, adding that Pakistan's foreign policy requires revolutionary changes. He said no one should be allowed to use the Gulf situation to serve one's political ends. The Senate will continue its discussion on Sunday afternoon. Earlier, the house disposed of several adjournment motions. [passage omitted]

### AFP Cites Gap Between Regime, Public on Iraq

*BK2001123491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1218 GMT 20 Jan 91*

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 20 (AFP)—The gap is growing daily between the government and public opinion in Pakistan, a Moslem country with more than 10,000 troops in Saudi Arabia but where hearts beat for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan felt compelled to reiterate Sunday that Pakistan "still opposes Israel's hegemonistic ambitions in the Middle East."

Visibly on the defensive since U.S.-led forces in Saudi Arabia launched air strikes Thursday on Iraq, officials here are stressing Pakistan's "Islamic brotherhood" with the Saudi kingdom in a bid to pacify public opinion.

They also emphasize the "defensive" role of Pakistani troops in the Gulf war and their own efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully.

But most Pakistanis are closely following Baghdad's war communiques, reported here as the local press tries to balance coverage in the face of an information blitz by the U.S. Cable News Network.

Pro-Iraqi demonstrations have taken place across the country, while a bomb that ripped through a crowded cinema near here Saturday—killing five people and injuring about 50—revived fears of a possible wave of terrorist attacks.

Some commentators have warned that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government will have to switch its policy on the Gulf or risk being brought down.

Certain factions in the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) are leading a popular swing in Mr. Husayn's favor.

Qasi Hussain Ahmed, an influential senator and leader of one IJI faction—the Jamaat-e-Islami—is demanding a total overhaul of the government's foreign policy.

In a meeting Saturday in Lahore, he warned that if the United States destroyed Iraq's military capability, then Pakistan, which Washington suspects of possessing nuclear weapons, would be "the next target."

The Jamiat Ulema Islam, a religious party with six MPs, withdrew support for the government because it was "harming the cause of Islam," the English-language daily DAWN said Sunday.

The opposition, led by ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), also appears to be playing to public opinion, with some PPP groups organising daily anti-American demonstrations.

### UN Agency Announces Aid for Afghan Refugees

*BK2501080091 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] The UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] will provide 432 million rupees to Pakistan for assistance to over three million Afghan refugees. An agreement to this effect was signed in Islamabad today. This agreement forms part of a UNHCR assistance program in Pakistan for 1991.

## Sri Lanka

### Goverment Bans Anti-War Demonstrations

*BK2301064891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0639 GMT 23 Jan 91*

[Text] Colombo, Jan 23 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government has banned anti-war demonstrations but would allow peaceful meetings to discuss the Gulf crisis, a senior minister told parliament here.

State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne told parliament late Tuesday that no demonstrations against the U.S.-led allied offensive to oust Iraq from Kuwait will be allowed but peaceful meetings could be staged.

The minister gave no reason for the action which came four days after police baton-charged Moslem demonstrators who tried to take out a march through streets of Colombo chanting anti-American and pro-Saddam Husayn slogans.

An opposition MP [member of parliament], Athauda Seneviratne, said his leftist United Socialist Alliance Party had arranged a demonstration in Colombo for Friday but police had been ordered to stop it.

"We must create world opinion against war. There are demonstrations even outside the White House... Why not here," Mr. Seneviratne asked in parliament.

"The answer is simple. We are allowing meetings but we canot allow demonstrations," Mr. Wijeratne said without elaborating.

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has asked Yugoslavia, the current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to intervene in ending the Gulf war which he said was causing serious economic problems to his country and other developing nations.

### Government Estimates Number of Citizens in Gulf

*BK2501122291 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jan 91*

[Text] The foreign ministry said that no Sri Lankans in the Gulf had suffered injuries or any other hardship as a result of the ongoing war. A ministry communique said that complaints have been received that employers have not provided adequate security and protective equipment. The embassy [as heard] has (?intervened) and ensured that protective equipment was provided.

The ministry of foreign affairs released an estimate of the number of Sri Lankan expatriates in the Middle East. The estimate has been prepared in accordance with the figures received from Sri Lankan missions abroad corrected up to the first week of January this year. According to the figures, 43 Sri Lankans are in Iraq, 3,400 in Kuwait, 26,400 in Oman, 105,000 in Saudi Arabia, 1,800 in Yemen, 16,000 in Jordan, 55,600 in UAE [United Arab Emirates], 6,500 in Qatar, and 6,600 in Bahrain. The ministry of foreign affairs is in regular contact with its missions in Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia and the consulate in Jordan.

According to reports, life in Oman is absolutely normal. Authorities do not anticipate the war affecting Oman in any way. There are no evacuees in Oman. According to reports, the situation in UAE is normal. There are two repatriates from Kuwait and they are awaiting repatriation as there are no international flights out of Abu Dhabi and Qatar. In Saudi Arabia, those Sri Lankans who sought refuge in the embassy as they had been left behind by their Saudi employers have now returned to their places of work. The embassy is working round the clock to meet Sri Lankans in areas affected by missile attack and to assure them of their safety. It has been said that no Sri Lankan has suffered any injury or any other hardship as a result of the attack. There are approximately 1,000 Sri Lankans waiting to leave Saudi Arabia having obtained exist visas. However, both Dhahran and Riyadh are closed to international traffic. Three Westbound international flights are operating outside Jeddah. The embassy is pressing for the resumption of Jeddah-Colombo flight. The only exit air terminal in the possible future is Jeddah.

In Jordan, 13 Sri Lankans had arrived from Iraq before the hostilities broke out. A further (?seven) residents in Jordan had sought repatriation. Within the next few days, IOM [International Organization for Migration] will be making arrangements to fly these Sri Lankans to Cairo and from there to Colombo. Ten Sri Lankans arrived from Baghdad with their Egyptian employers en route to Cairo. They wish to continue their employment and will be proceeding to Cairo with their employers on transport arranged by the IOM. Other than the report by the CNN reporter with regard to whereabouts of the Sri Lankan ambassador in Iraq, the foreign ministry had no information about Sri Lankans in Kuwait and Iraq.

### Gulf War Effects on Tea Trade Considered

*BK2401131091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1224 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Colombo, Jan 24 (AFP)—An escalation of the Gulf war would seriously affect Sri Lanka's fragile economy, heavily dependent on imports and the export of tea to the Middle East, the government here said Thursday.

State Minister for Defence and Plantations Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said he hoped the Gulf war would be confined to the current theatre of action and not spread to other Middle Eastern countries.

"If the action does not spread we will not have much to worry," the minister said, expressing concern that an escalation would seriously hit shipping through the Middle East affecting Sri Lanka's imports and tea exports.

Uncertainty of shipping depressed tea prices at Tuesday's tea auction here, forcing the government to withdraw one million kilos (2.2 million pounds) of tea. A record 6.7 million kilos (14.74 million) pounds were on offer.

The first shocks of the Gulf crisis were felt here when domestic fuel prices were hiked by 50 per cent and hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankans employed in the Gulf returned home penniless following Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The minister told reporters here that the government had banned anti-war demonstrations because "our people are not involved in the fighting."

"If we allow demonstrations some one can throw a stone and that will lead to unnecessary trouble. Why should we leave room for that?" He said adding that peaceful meetings would be allowed to discuss the crisis.

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has asked Yugoslavia, the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM), to summon an urgent meeting of its ministerial committee to resolve the gulf crisis.

The Sri Lankan parliament was Thursday debating the Gulf crisis, and the discussion would continue till late on the request of opposition parties, officials said.

### Nonaligned Efforts To End Gulf War Encouraged

*BK2201160091 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jan 91*

[Excerpt] President Ranasinghe Premadasa has proposed a fresh initiative by the Nonaligned Movement to end the Gulf war and find a peaceful solution to the conflict. He has sent an urgent message to the president of Yugoslavia, Borisav Jovic, the current chairman of the movement, making this proposal. His letter says that Sri Lanka together with other members of the Nonaligned Movement is deeply distressed at the escalation of the conflict in the Gulf region. We are particularly concerned since the two member states affected—Iraq and Kuwait—are members of the movement. The outbreak of war and the fearful loss of lives affects us all. It is imperative that the Nonaligned Movement takes the initiative to resolve this conflict, which is so critical for all of us. It is urgent that we make possible efforts of our own to contribute to the resolution of this disastrous conflict. The president's letter further says Sri Lanka urges restraint on all forces in this conflict and supports a halt to hostility.

Speaking at a ceremony held to distribute free textbooks at the Madhya Mahavidyalaya [college] at Kahawatta in Ratnapura, the president said that he had taken this measure because the Gulf war has assumed dangerous proportions. He said that he had informed Yugoslavia that Sri Lanka was ready and willing to assist in any initiative that may be taken to bring about an immediate end to hostilities and the resolution of the dispute in the Middle East through peaceful means.

The president said that he had directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue its monitoring of the safety of Sri Lankan nationals in the Gulf region. The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training has also been instructed to take measures to ensure the safety of Sri Lankans in the Gulf. The world is experiencing the effect of the war today.

Sri Lanka has extended its assistance to the peace efforts of the word leaders and the United Nations organizations. But it was not fruitful. The president said that no one can win in this war. The decision to appeal to stop the war was taken by considering this factor. Sri Lanka also values peace. Sri Lankans have showed to the world that they are a nation committed to resolve problems though consultation and compromise. [passage omitted]

### Wijeratne Has 'Open Mind' for Talks With India

*BK2401091491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] The Sri Lankan minister of state for defense, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, says Colombo has an open mind to discuss with India any aspect of the ethnic issue that will help find a peaceful solution. He told newsmen in Colombo today that the Indo-Sri Lankan accord of 1987 is an old issue, but Sri Lanka will consider anything the external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, wants to discuss. Mr. Wijeratne said the Indo-Sri Lankan bilateral cooperation in tea trade and its marketing will be discussed during Mr. Shukla's three- day visit to Colombo beginning from the 28th of this month.

### Air Force Planes Bomb LTTE Positions

*BK2101162091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jan 91*

[Text] In Sri Lanka Air Force planes bombed the strongholds of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants in northern parts today. Military sources said in Colombo that most of the attacks took place in Kilinochchi District where a 24-hour curfew was imposed on Sunday night. No details of damage or casualties are available. Curfew has been imposed in northern Jaffna also.

### Civilians Killed in Eastern Towns

*BK2201124091 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0647 GMT 22 Jan 91*

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lanka Air Force successfully destroyed a number of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] targets in northern Sri Lanka during the last 24 hours, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

They also said seven Muslim civilians were killed this morning when ambushed by LTTE terrorists between the eastern towns of Sittandy and Kiranchikulam. The two incidents occurred around 0830 hours (local time) today.

The civilians were travelling from Valachenai to Batticaloa.

One soldier was killed and two wounded, as the security forces cleared the villages of Pukulam, Malikulam and Marichikada at Wilpattu in the north western district of Puttalam of LTTE terrorists, who had been [as received] taken them eight months ago.

The terrorists had conscripted a number of school children from these villages. An abandoned safe house was destroyed and a landmine recovered as the terrorists hastily withdrew from the three villages in the face of oncoming government troops.

Four soldiers of a route clearing party were wounded in a terrorist landmine explosion in the eastern Trincomalee District.

Terrorists had fired arms at the Elephant Pass security forces camp. There were no casualties.

The 24 hour curfew which was in force in the Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts lifted at midnight yesterday.

### LTTE Boat Intercepted; Rebel Positions Strafed

*BK2201121291 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jan 91*

[Text] A Sri Lankan Navy gunboat yesterday intercepted a Tiger boat ferrying diesel through the rivers of Jaffna and took four suspects into custody, security sources say. They said the boat coming from (Khoddial), India, was carrying 43 25-liter cans and 600-liter [as heard] cans of diesel and a large number of batteries for using LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's] [words indistinct] mines, the sources said.

Fifty-seven one-gallon cans and 189 one-liter cans of Indian lubricant bearing the brand name Bharat (Optima) Super were also found in the boat. The sources said the vallam [boat] was captured after the gunboat fired warning shots across the [word indistinct]. There was no resistance from the four LTTE suspects.

Military sources said yesterday that Air Force bombed and strafed suspected strongholds of rebel Tamil separatists in the north yesterday. They said most of the attacks took place in Kilinochchi District where 24-hour curfew was imposed on Sunday [20 January]. There were no details of damage or casualty.

### 27 Persons 'Hacked to Death' by LTTE 23 Jan

*BK2301092691 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0852 GMT 23 Jan 91*

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Fifteen children, seven women and five men were brutally hacked to death in the early hours of this morning by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists in the little Sinhalese farming village of Bogamuya, Maha Oya, in the eastern Amparai District.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that about 300 terrorists had launched an attack on the police and army posts between 0200 hours (local time) and 0230 hours (local time) at Unawatupipula as a diversionary tactic, while simultaneously massacring 15 innocent children, their fathers and mothers in the neighbouring village of Bogamuyaya.

Official sources said one terrorist was killed by the security forces at Kankesanthurai and another at Kayts, where one soldier was also killed by an anti-personnel mine.

Security forces recovered a large 70 kilogram landmine on the Surangal-Kinniya Road in the Trincomalee District.

One LTTE terrorist was killed in this encounter.

LTTE terrorists fired mortars as they attacked the Elephant Pass security forces camp twice Tuesday [22 January]. Both attacks were repulsed with no casualties among the security forces.

Meanwhile, 23 more Tamil families from Jaffna comprising 53 men, women and children arrived in Vavuniya from Jaffna and sought and were given refuge by the government.

### Indian High Commissioner Supports Stand on LTTE

*BK2301113491 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Jan 91*

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Nagendra Nath Jha, has said the justice and adherence to the Constitution was a precondition for the Indian government's talks with the militants. The same could also be applied in Sri Lanka. In an interview with the Indian SUNDAY TIMES, Mr. Jha said the government's precondition that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam), V. Prabhakaran, should be a party to any future peace dialogue is justified. Mr. Jha said that none of the preconditions laid by the government were harsh. He said that the government has specified that the declaration against use or possession of arms by anybody other than those authorized by law must precede the talks.

On the proposed Friendship treaty replacing the [existing India- Sri Lanka] accord, the high commissioner said the treaty has nothing to do with the Tamil problem, and that as far as he is aware it is suppose to replace the letters exchanged under the accord. He said it might come up for discussion during the propose visit of the Indian external affairs minister, V.C. Shukla, to

Colombo. Mr Jha stressed that the treaty will stand for all time, but the militant LTTE will not be there for much longer.

### Spokesman on Violent Crimes by Security Forces

*BK2401132091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT 24 Jan 91*

[Text] Colombo, Jan 24 (AFP)—A spate of robberies and rapes by security forces have prompted the government to tighten laws to discipline the armed services, it was announced here Thursday.

Cabinet Spokesman Ranil Wickremesinghe said there had been an increase of "rape, robberies and house break-ins" involving security personnel with the rapid expansion of the country's military and police in the past five years.

He said the cabinet Wednesday approved a series of measures including the stopping of pay to air force men suspended on charges of excesses.

"The government is taking a very serious view of excesses. We had to amend the air force act because there isn't provision in it to punish air force offenders adequately.

"We have also asked army, navy, and police chiefs to recommend other measures to be taken," Mr. Wickremesinghe said.

Bradman Weerakoon, a close aide to President Ranasinghe Premadasa and the head of a committee appointed to investigate human rights abuses, said that he had documented about 40 to 50 military excesses.

The offenders will be discharged from the service without compensation, Mr. Wickeremesinghe said.

Sri Lanka's Armed Forces strength has been increased to over 100,000 from a modest 20,000 seven years ago in the face of rebellions by Tamil separatists and Sinhalese radicals.